

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Mayor Willie Brown Sworn In

United Press International

Former state Assembly Speaker Willie Brown was sworn in as San Francisco's mayor Monday, January 8. With thousands in attendance, Brown took the oath of office in front of the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial fountain in downtown's Yerba Buena Gardens, and wasted little time setting the tone of his administration.

Brown kicked off the festivities by taking a phone call from President Bill Clinton, joking with the chief executive that the president should be in San Francisco, because "there's no snow, and no Republicans."

Then it was down to business as Brown used his inaugural address to begin carrying out his campaign promise to make his administration one for all San Franciscans, no matter their race, sexual orientation, or religion.

"I have said this will be an action administration," Brown said. "I have said the decision process with my administration will be swift."

With that, he named veteran police officer Fred Lau to become the first Asian-American to become the department's chief, and veteran detective Earl Sanders, an African-American, to be assistant chief.

Brown then named Bob Demmons as the first black to head the city's Fire Department.

The mayor acknowledged he had not talked with either man but felt confident they would accept their new assignments. In fact, it is not the mayor's job to

make the appointments; the police and fire commissions have that authority.

Brown also announced the appointment of long-time lesbian activist Pat Norman to the city's Police Commission.

No Leaks

"My administration will not be plagued by leaks," said Brown. "I told no one of these [nomination] decisions ... I will listen to those who advise me - but I, and I alone, will make the announcements."

The mayor also called for a summit of neighborhood, government, and business leaders to be staged during his first 100 days in office, to chart a plan to revitalize the city.

In that regard, Brown said he would back a \$150 million federal bond issue to stimulate housing starts within the city, particularly the long-delayed Mission Bay development in the China Basin District.

Brown also promised to do everything in his power to get voters to approve a zoning change so the San Francisco Giants can build a new stadium in downtown San Francisco.

"I intend to see there is a ball park built in this town," he said. "I will do everything I can to save our two ball teams."

With that, the party began. Brown's inaugural staff planned a bash at a converted pier along the city's wharf, featuring music from the likes of Huey Lewis and the News and Carlos Santana. ▼



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

Reach out and touch someone: Mayor Willie Brown takes a call from President Clinton during his inauguration. Brown got off the best bon mot of the day when he told the beleaguered chief executive: "You should be here, Mr. President. There is no snow and no Republicans."

Infamous Castro/18th Taxi Hijacker Nabbed

But Many Still Complain About Neighborhood Crime

by Mary Ann Swisler

A man believed responsible for at least six taxicab hijackings, using the intersection of 18th and Castro as his jumping off point, was wrestled out of a cab and held for police by a cab driver whom he allegedly tried to rob Saturday, January 6.

Joseph Kristofferson, 39, was arrested in the late afternoon after he reportedly tried to rob a 230-pound, 6' 3" DeSoto cabby who drove him to a Bernal Heights location.

Driver Herbert V. Gee told authorities the much smaller suspect tried to choke him with a seat belt, sprayed tear gas in his face, and then kicked him in the chest when Gee tried to grab Kristofferson.

Kristofferson managed to escape the cab - but immediately ran down a dead-end street.

Gee blocked the exit until police arrived, who arrested Kristofferson and booked him on four felony counts. Authorities suspect he may have carried out six hold-ups in a string of cab robberies beginning November 26.

Only two days before Kristofferson's arrest, a highjacked cab was found abandoned in the parking garage of the Cala supermarket.

Continued on page 10



Photo: Mike Salinas

Abandoned cab site in the Castro.

Salvation Army Client Alleges Anti-Gay Abuses

by Dennis Conkin

Despite Salvation Army claims that it does not discriminate against lesbians and gays, a gay man says he got the shaft from the social service agency while he was in midst of a life-and-death battle with injection drugs.

The story is just one told by former Army clients to the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Christopher Koppel, 47, now lives in Washington, D.C. and has been clean and sober for four years. He is off the street, a regular member of gay 12-step alcohol and substance abuse recovery groups, and is in a long-term and stable relationship with a man he deeply loves.

From all appearances and his own testimony, Koppel has been very successful in turning his life around, but he says it's no thanks

to the Salvation Army in San Francisco.

Koppel was addicted to methamphetamine and intimately familiar with the harsh life of a Tenderloin street addict when he turned to the Salvation Army for shelter and rehabilitation in the late 1980s.

"I was in their Harbor Light program, but I used drugs and went into their detox program," Koppel remembers.

After he successfully completed the alcohol and drug detox program, Koppel was referred to the Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center on Valencia Street.

But the course of early recovery is rarely a simple transition from being strung out to being sober, and while on a weekend pass from the program, Koppel again relapsed and shot drugs during the last week of his six-month stay at the ARC.

Koppel told the Army that he'd relapsed and was told that he would not be expelled from the recovery program because the Army believed he was sincere about his efforts to rehabilitate himself.

However, a few days after the relapse, when a vulnerable and uncertain Koppel was receiving counseling from a Salvation Army captain, he learned that the offer of continued practical help and shelter and emotional and spiritual assistance came with an anti-gay price tag.

"My homosexuality was just a sinful thing. That was the way he basically looked at it," Koppel told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And he told me that I drank and used drugs because I could not accept my homosexuality."

"It's in their credo that homo-
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Dianamite: Gay icon Diana Ross and gay RuPaul chat with the *B.A.R.* See pp. 14&15.



▼ Community Dental Update ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Dress Rehearsal for the Big Time for Extra Fancy

A few months ago, soon after the independent release of Extra Fancy's *Sinner Man* album, lead singer Brian Grillo seemed wary of big, corporate record companies. "One of the reasons I started this band," explained the outspoken queer singer, "was because I was pissed off that I wasn't able to express my point of view openly on a major label."

So it's ironic that this hard-rocking Los Angeles band is currently signing a deal with Atlantic Records, with a remixed re-release of *Sinner Man* slated for sometime in the spring. With Dave Jorden doing the remixing—famous for working with both Jane's Addiction and Alice In Chains—Extra Fancy seems destined for success. But if you can't wait for the re-release, the indie CD, on Diablo Musica, is still available. With only 5000 copies pressed, it could very well end up as a collectible, so if you want to hear what Extra Fancy sounds like before the corruption of a major label, track down this album soon.

Extra Fancy plays with Stone Fox and Aint this Saturday, January 13th, at Kilowatt, 3160 16th Street. Show starts at 9 pm. Tickets are \$6.



CUAV To Hold Lesbian Domestic Violence Forums

by Mary Ann Swissler

Four workshops designed to get lesbians out of domestic violence situations, or prevent them from ever happening, will be sponsored by Community United Against Violence (CUAV) in the next few weeks.

"The workshops are aimed at queer women," volunteer coordinator and community organizer Nhu Guong told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "This was part of a grant to organize four forums aimed at the women's community. CUAV has traditionally served men, and we're trying to outreach to women in the community."

The reasons why domestic violence occurs among lesbian couples are exactly the same as for heterosexual couples, although the no-talk rules are even stricter among queers, she said. Despite a flood of recent publicity, aimed at educating both lesbians and police officers who might get called to

the scene of a battering, Guong said the situation has improved only slightly.

Police officers still may not recognize the dynamics when responding to a call, even here in San Francisco, where they have received training about domestic violence in gay relationships.

"I think people are beginning to talk about it more," Guong said, "but the fact is that it remains an issue that people do not want to face. We do not want the rest of society to use it against us."

"It is difficult for police to believe that battering is going on. 'And they will many times arrest both parties.'

What Can They Do?

CUAV will assist battered lesbians by helping obtain temporary restraining orders, she said, and Greg Merrill and Rebeca Rivera of CUAV's gay men's domestic violence project often go to court if someone decides to prosecute.

The service organization also has a crisis hotline.

The two discussions on violence will be held at the Dolores Street Community Center, located at 938 Valencia Street. "Hate Motivated Violence Against Women" is scheduled for Saturday, January 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. "Lesbian Domestic Violence" will be held on Tuesday, February 13 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Two follow-up self-defense classes will be held at 973 Market Street, located across from the Warfield. A \$5 fee will be charged. A street self-defense class will be held on Saturday, February 3, from 1 to 5 p.m. "Learn to Defend Yourself in the Home Against an Abusive Partner" is scheduled for Saturday, February 24 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. ▼

For more information, call Nhu Guong at CUAV at (415) 777-5500.

SF 'Phantom' Fights AIDS

by Mary Ann Swissler

The San Francisco company of *Phantom of the Opera* recently outpaced theatre companies from New York, Philadelphia, Miami, Chicago, and Atlanta in raising money for AIDS charities from ticketholders.

For six weeks from November 14 until December 23, theatergoers who attended *Phantom* and ACT's *Seven Guitars* heard cur-

tain call speeches asking for donations. More than \$106,500 was raised at *Phantom*, and a matching grant from Absolut Vodka doubled that sum, as part of its Absolut Theatre Program to benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

San Francisco-based AIDS Emergency Fund and the Bay Area Prenatal AIDS Center will receive a total of \$26,500 of the money raised.

"The San Francisco company

of *Phantom of the Opera* is one of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS' great champions," said BC/EFA producing director Tom Viola. "Without their extensive and continued efforts, we would not be able to provide assistance to persons living with AIDS to the great extent that we do."

The New York production of *Victor, Victoria* came in second, by raising \$150,500. ▼

'Out in All Directions' Editors To Speak at Noe Valley Library

by Mary Ann Swissler

Lynn Witt and Sherry Thomas will talk about their new book *Out In All Directions: The Almanac of Gay and Lesbian America* on Wednesday, January 17 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch. The branch is located at 451 Jersey Street, one block up from 24th Street.

The reading is open to the public and will be videotaped by the Public Library's audio visual department.

Among the more than 50 queer scribes lending their skills to this impressively detailed, 635-page book about gay history and culture are B.A.R. writers Wendell Ricketts, Daniel Mangin, and David Lamble.

Librarian Roberta Greifer said she got the idea for the event because the library often invites patrons with recently published books to come and read and discuss their work. *Out* editors Witt and Thomas fit the bill on both accounts, and agreed to appear. The third editor, gay historian and author Eric Mar-

cus, lives in New York.

In addition to reading, Witt and Thomas will discuss the genesis of the book, and then hold a question-and-answer session.

Greifer said that the Noe Valley branch frequently screens films and holds forums that are open to the public. A presentation on aromatherapy will be held in February. ▼

For more information contact the library at (415) 695-5095.

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SF County Jail Changes 'Gay Tank' Rules

by Dennis Conkin

Simply identifying oneself as homosexual may no longer be enough to get inmates into protective segregated housing at San Francisco County Jail, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

"We have made a change in the system," Sheriff's Department Public Affairs Officer Eileen Hirst has confirmed.

Hirst acknowledged that a gay person may not be placed in segregated housing solely because they are gay, but said the new criteria and classification system will be an improvement over the old system — and safer. She said the

old system that determined who qualified for such housing was "terribly subjective," and often based on the sole assessment of a deputy or the claims of an inmate seeking protective custody.

The factual criteria now used in determining the need for protective housing include current charges, criminal history, psychiatric status, gang affiliation, educational level, and other factors.

"We will look at objective risk factors in making a decision," Hirst said.

The new criteria were adopted on the recommendation from the special master in charge of monitoring court-ordered improve-

ments in conditions at the jail — and are designed to protect inmates who need the protective housing.

Examples of the need for the objective criteria, according to Hirst, include cases in which a sexual predator identifies himself as gay so he could be placed in the gay tank, or a gang member says he is gay in order to carry out an attack on another inmate in protective housing.

Pre-ops Only?

Some gay inmates have called the *Bay Area Reporter* to express concern that the housing would be limited to pre-operative transsexuals.

als and street drag queens. Hirst said any inmate who felt adversely affected or unsafe by the new classification system could either contact the department's independent ombudsman or contact her directly for assistance.

"Everyone has the right to live safely and securely within the jail," she said.

"I wasn't aware of the change in classification," Supervisor Tom

Ammiano told the *B.A.R.* "I know what it's like to be harassed, and we have to keep the jails safe for lesbian and gay inmates."

Supervisor Carole Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she, too, had never been informed of the change of criteria at the jail, and said inmates who feel at risk or who have fear about their safety in jail may feel free to contact her office for assistance. ▼

Jordan's Farewell Blasts Anti-Gay Lutherans

by Dennis Conkin

Former Mayor Frank Jordan's last official legislative act, Thursday, January 4 was the signing of a Board of Supervisors resolution in support of two San Francisco churches expelled from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on December 31.

St. Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church were expelled for ordaining a lesbian couple and a gay man who

refused to comply with the denomination's prohibition on gay clergy being sexually active.

The resolution, which urged the anti-gay denomination to reconsider its action, was sponsored by Supervisor Tom Ammiano and co-sponsored by Supervisors Susan Leal, Carole Migden, and Sue Bierman.

"History has shown that societal attitudes will not change until the institutions of government, the press, and religion change," said Jordan. "Therefore, as a city, it is

important to express an opinion when a denial of justice occurs.

"When people are excluded from full participation because of things like race, religion, and sexual orientation, the entire community is harmed," he said, "because people who want to contribute are denied the opportunity — and the community is denied the help."

"I hope that this church will come to learn what we have come to value in San Francisco: the richness of human diversity improves the quality of life for everyone." ▼



Frank Jordan: "It is important to express an opinion when a denial of justice occurs."

Public Forum Scheduled On Gay Community Center

by Mary Ann Swissler

Plans to secure a building for a future community center in the Upper Market area will be discussed Sunday, February 18 from 2 to 5 p.m. at a forum sponsored by The San Francisco Center Project.

According to Allen Carson, Community Outreach Chair of the project, the meeting will be held in the Audre Lorde room of the San Francisco Women's Building, located at 3543 18th Street, near Valencia.

"We hope all interested parties will attend," Carson said. "There will be a half-hour informational

presentation by the project. The rest of the time will be devoted to questions and comments from those attending."

No target date has been set for the center's opening, but according to organizers it will house gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender groups, and provide referrals to AIDS and gay-related services, when it does open. ▼

For additional information, write 584 Castro Street #450, San Francisco CA 94114; call (415) 241-1526; or e-mail sfgaycom@hooked.net.

Correction:

The photo accompanying last week's article "Levy To Give Immigration Talk for G40+ers" incorrectly identified the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission's Asylum Project director as Simon Levy. His name is actually Sydney Levy. The *Bay Area Reporter* apologizes for the error.

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Golden Shower

Americans for Gay Rights/SF's (l to r) Gilbert Baker, Michael Merrigan and Brett Thomas protest German-advocated censorship of the Internet outside the Goethe Institut Jan. 4. Several bottles of Beck's were poured out on Bush St. as the cameras rolled. The group is encouraging everyone to boycott German beer and other products.

Hamilton Square Church Lawsuit Nearing Settlement

by Dennis Conkin

Attorneys for four gay men slapped with now-dismissed hate crimes lawsuits by the right wing Rutherford Institute, on behalf of an anti-gay San Francisco Baptist church, are close to settling the bizarre case.

A state court judge ruled last October that the Hamilton Square Baptist Church had no standing to sue two activists and a reporter and publisher of the now-defunct *San Francisco Sentinel*, a gay tabloid publication, in connection with a September 19, 1993 protest at the church. A federal court dismissed the Rutherford Institute's appeal of the ruling — which the institute then appealed.

Although the appeal of the federal court decision is still technically pending, attorneys for the defendants told the *Bay Area Reporter* they expect it to be with-

drawn this month, in exchange for a settlement agreement that the losing church will not be held liable for tens of thousands of dollars in court costs and attorney's fees.

Lee Wildes, Paul Bernardino, former *Sentinel* reporter Michael Colbruno, and former San Francisco *Sentinel* publisher Ray Chalker were sued by the church on civil hate crimes charges after demonstrators protested the appearance of anti-gay minister Lou Sheldon at the church.

The Rutherford Institute alleged in the lawsuit that defendants Wildes and Bernardino encouraged and incited a riot during the protest, and that Colbruno "aided and abetted" rioters by entering the church and taping Sheldon's speech — and then showing some demonstrators after leaving the church that he had tape recorded Sheldon's comments.

The lawsuits also charged that San Francisco municipal authorities had adopted policies of "tolerance to and indifference toward" unlawful assemblies conducted on behalf of "the political agenda" of the lesbian and gay community.

Lawyers for the legal firm of Heller, Ehrman, White, and McAuliffe argued in a legal brief that Wildes's and Bernardino's ac-

tions were exhortatory, and that they never harmed anyone, did not touch or throw objects at any person, and did not agitate for other protesters to do so.

In fact, Wildes, a person with AIDS, was himself allegedly spit on by a man identified as the son of Hamilton Square pastor David Innes.

According to the legal brief, an angry Wildes tore off one of the plastic numbers that identified the address of the church and the man identified as Innes's son reported the action to police, who then arrested Wildes.

The incident became a blatant public relations and fundraising effort for the church, which brought scores of supporters to a subsequent Board of Supervisors meeting.

At that meeting, well-known gay activist Barbie Jesus was hauled off by police after he spit on Sheldon, who was protected by a cordon of bodyguards brought by Baptist minister and fired Human Rights Commissioner Reverend Eugene Lumpkin.

Courts later ruled that the church has no standing to sue, and that none of the actions referenced in the lawsuits constituted hate crimes under federal civil rights or state hate crimes statutes. ▼

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Six Groups Receive Sisters' Habitual Awards

by Dennis Conkin

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have awarded more than \$5,500 in grants to six Bay Area non-profit groups that provide direct services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities.

The beneficiaries of this year's awards are The Living Well Project; Kairos grief support groups; The Women's Cancer Resource Center; Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Against Defamation; Outline online information for PWAs; and the LYRIC Young Women's Program's 1996 Health and Sex Fair.

Each group received \$918, a portion of the proceeds collected at the group's Halloween Pleasuredome celebration.

Over the last six years, according to a press release provided by SPI, Inc., the group has raised more than \$200,000 for an estimated 40 non-profits that provide direct services to sexual minorities. ▼

Historian, VFW Commander Paul Hardman Dies at 72

by Dennis Conkin

Longtime gay and lesbian veterans' affairs activist and gay American Post legion founder and commander Dr. Paul D. Hardman has died at the age of 72.

Hardman died Friday, January 6, one day after a medical procedure related to a prostatectomy he received earlier in the year.

"Paul was a true San Franciscan and one of the most energetic and active people that I've ever met in my life," said San Francisco Supervisor Angela Alioto. "He was a persistent and tireless advocate for veterans rights."

Alioto worked with Hardman on a variety of civic projects, including the establishment of the Museum of San Francisco at the Cannery.

Long active in civic affairs, Hardman was also well known for his scrutiny of the operations of the War Memorial facility by the trustees and city administrators of the facility.

"There really was no else like him. He was the most dedicated and determined force for veterans. Some of his associates will do our best to continue his work," longtime friend Arch Wilson told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

A World War II Navy veteran, Hardman had a memorable battle



Photo: Phil Migliorese Jr.

The late Dr. Paul D. Hardman.

more than a decade ago with the conservative American Legion over the formation of the Alexander Hamilton Post of the organization.

"At first the local legion was delighted that all these young men and women wanted to establish a post - but then they found out just exactly what kind of men and women we were," laughed Bud Robbins.

The American Legion tried to delay the start-up of the post, by conveniently losing the group's charter paperwork and the dis-

charge histories of applicant members.

Finally, after Hardman and other members threatened a discrimination lawsuit, the national group relented and the AH post formed - a happier ending than the one to a similar struggle in the East.

"The legion was successful in preventing a New York lesbian and gay post," Robbins said.

Charges of discrimination were also brought by Hardman against the California State Department of the American Legion, after the group refused to allow the post to advertise in the state *AL* magazine or rebut the publication's many articles opposing gays in the military.

The City's Human Rights Commission is set to issue a finding in the complaint within two weeks. It agreed to take the complaint because the state *AL* headquarters rents its War Memorial offices from the city for a token rent of \$150 per month.

Hardman, who had a doctorate in history, was also the author of a historical book on homoeroticism in military affairs.

A memorial service for Hardman will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, February 3 in Room 203 of the War Memorial Building, located at 401 Van Ness Street. ▶

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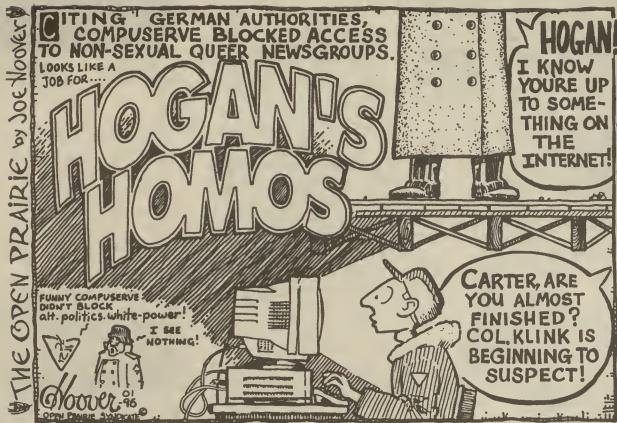
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OPEN FORUM

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JOE HOOVER**GUEST OPINION****An Open Letter to the Mayor**

by Gerard Koskovich

Mayor Brown: Please accept my congratulations on your election. As a San Francisco citizen who voted for you, I am writing to express my concern about published reports that Captain Richard Cairns is being considered for promotion to the position of deputy chief in the San Francisco Police Department. Because of his recent disciplinary record, Cairns should be regarded as an unsuitable candidate for a position on the command staff.

I believe that promoting Cairns would severely damage ongoing efforts to improve discipline in the department. San Francisco voters made their demand for a better disciplined force quite evident in November by voting overwhelmingly in favor of Proposition G. And I know from your public statements – and from the campaign mailer I received at my home which criticizes the Castro Sweep and other incidents of police misconduct under Frank Jordan – that you are very concerned about this issue, as well. Given the fact that he holds the rank of captain, Cairns has a duty to demonstrate the highest degree of professionalism and discipline for the many officers under his command. He has failed in this duty, having engaged in misconduct so serious that the Police Commission has been forced to publicly suspend him twice in the past five years. The commission has found Cairns guilty on a number of charges, among them lying to order a false felony arrest and beating two women without cause during the Castro Sweep.

When officers with a record of misconduct are passed over for promotion, the chief makes it plain to the entire department that advancement requires a clearly superior disciplinary record. By contrast, when ranking officers who have failed to uphold the general orders of the department are rewarded with positions of greater responsibility, the promotion sends a message to all officers that they are free to ignore the rules. I urge you to convey to your new chief that his or her promotions to the command staff must exemplify in no uncertain terms that the Jordan-era policy of tolerance for misconduct is over.

I would also like to make sure that you are aware of the impact that a Cairns promotion would have on the department's stated goal of expanded community policing. Captain Cairns was the tactical commander of the Castro Sweep, and as such he was directly involved in taking the decision to invade the Castro with over 150 police officers, to violently sweep all citizens from the streets in a seven-block area, and to place everyone in homes and businesses in the neighborhood under house arrest.

Cairns has consistently attempted to whitewash his role in the Castro Sweep. As a complainant in the resulting Office of Citizen Complaints case, I read the confidential OCC report, took part in a confidential OCC investigative hearing where Cairns testified, and attended every one of the public disciplinary hearings held by the Police Commission. On that basis, I can assure you that Cairns was centrally involved in the decision-making – and directly responsible for the tactical choices – that resulted in the single most massive and violent attack on the human rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and people with AIDS communities in the history of San Francisco.

In addition to his severe misconduct before and during the sweep, Cairns behaved in an extremely injudicious and unprofessional manner during the nearly two years of disciplinary proceedings which followed. Two examples: Cairns lied under oath about his actions during the Police Commission hearings. And he publicly and privately harassed the complainants and the OCC staff in such a serious and sustained manner that the acting director of the OCC formally complained to then-chief Willis Casey, while one of the citizens filed an additional OCC complaint about the harassment.

These facts about Cairns's record are common knowledge in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and people with AIDS communities. As a consequence, a promotion for Cairns would further undermine relations between the San Francisco Police Department and those communities – as well as relations with all citizens who are concerned about police misconduct. The effect would be disastrous on efforts at community policing – a strategy which aims to reduce crime by building cooperation based on trust and respect between citizens and the police.

Mr. Mayor, I thank you for your attention to these concerns and look forward to a new era of leadership on these and other crucial issues during your administration. ▼

LETTERS

Losses from AIDS

I am writing in response to two comments made in Lawrence W. Smith's letter (B.A.R., Dec. 28) after he attended the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus holiday concert and the "Dance-Along Nutcracker" concert by the S.F. Winds of Freedom (the seated version of the S.F. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band). First, he commented that he "longed for the days when tickets were \$5 a shot." Second, he mentioned that "not a word about losses (of members to AIDS) was uttered" at the Winds of Freedom concert, other than a reference or two to Jon Sims, our founder.

Regarding ticket prices, the Winds of Freedom performed the "Dance-Along Nutcracker" twice on December 17. The first performance was *free*, and the second had a ticket price of \$10, hardly top dollar for a quality show at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. I should also remind Mr. Smith that the Winds of Freedom performs its Community Concert Series on the second Tuesday of every second month at Bethany United Methodist Church in Noe Valley, and that all these concerts are *free*. The next concert is February 13.

Regarding losses from AIDS suffered by band members, Mr. Smith must not have been paying attention during one of the more moving numbers, the "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables / I Am What I Am" medley. Conductor Nancy Corporon told the audience that this piece was arranged by Wayne Love in 1992 for a concert commemorating the tenth anniversaries of Gay Games I and the founding of Lesbian and Gay Bands of America. At that time, it was dedicated to the memories of all Gay Games and band participants who have been lost to AIDS over the years. With AIDS having claimed Wayne Love three months ago, Nancy rededicated the performance to him and all those who have succumbed to AIDS. After the Winds of Freedom, vocalists Lisa Gray and Dan Johnson, and the Bay Area Raw Rabs performed the work, there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

Elsewhere in the concert, the bitingly satirical "Sheep In Wolves' Clothing" was performed by Marga Gomez and the Winds of Freedom. Based loosely on "Peter and the Wolf," it told a farcical story of four band members "who had all lost many friends to AIDS" rising as one to prevent Jesse Helms and Newt Gingrich from spoiling the "Dance-Along Nutcracker." How anyone could have missed the message about losses from AIDS is beyond me.

I am glad Mr. Smith attended the "Dance-Along Nutcracker" and enjoyed it. Trust me, Mr. Smith, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band has suffered many, many losses from AIDS. Our organization is named in memory of our founder Jon Sims, and a brass plaque sitting at the entrance to our building (also named for Mr. Sims) lists the names of those who have "marched on." Unfortunately, the plaque is completely full and another is being ordered.

Doug Litwin
San Francisco

Mourning in America

Should we infer, from Lawrence Smith's 12/28 letter, that it's more important to remember the *names* of our dead friends than their *spirit*? There's already enough sadness in our community without attempting to divide us by contrasting how different groups mourn.

Jeff Bowles
San Francisco

Imperial gratitude

Dear San Francisco,
Thank you for being the City you are! So much has happened in 1995 and so many have been quick to bemoan the demise of the City by the Bay. We, however, are proud to call this City home. We've seen a community growing more unified, mourning continued loss, but refusing to surrender; a community exercising its political clout with issues and candidates; a community more than occasionally putting aside individual wants to serve the needs of others; a community relishing its diversity and embracing its differences; a community determined not just to survive, but to thrive in new and exciting ways.

Thank you for allowing us to serve as your Emperor and Empress for a year. Your enthusiastic support wherever we've shown up has been overwhelming. Thank you, *Bay Area Reporter*, for all the wonderful, positive press coverage you've provided. We will step down on March 2, proud of our reign and very proud of the City and the community we've served.

All the best to all of you in 1996!

Brian Benamati
H.M.I.M. Emperor of San Francisco
Donna Sachet
H.M.I.M. Empress of San Francisco

They're despitable!

Your recent column, and I paraphrase, "San Francisco's 50 most powerful lesbians and gays," should have been entitled "San Francisco's 50 most despitable lesbians and gays."

Name withheld for fear of retribution
San Francisco

Anyone but Carole Migden

The incident alluded to in the brief article "Silencing Tactics" by Migden Aide?" (12/7) is not an isolated incident. Many others who have called and disagreed have received the same treatment. Ms. Migden has gone to great lengths to squash other news stories such as this one.

Do you think a person of this temperament belongs in Sacramento?

Jeffrey E. Auman
San Francisco

A hero remembered

As your readers consider resolutions for the new year, I'd like them to know about my friend Steven.

My friend Steven died on World AIDS Day. Quietly. In his sleep. Unassuming to the end. He asked me not to write an obituary. So we'll call this a remembrance. He's not here to argue the point.

My friend Steven spent his life serving. Two tours in the Navy. Ten years with troubled teens in the boondocks of Virginia. AIDS groups in the heartland. And ended up with us ... at Shanti ... in this city he loved.

My friend Steven had a gift, and gave it. Quietly. Unassumingly. A kind word to someone ranting. A couple of bucks to someone tapped. A bed to save them from the sidewalk. He collected our lost puppies, and was bitten more than once. Mostly, he gave us his time - time he didn't have much of.

My friend Steven showed us. The caregivers. The experts. He had AIDS. Fine, what can I do? He was poor. Fine, others are broke. He was sick. Fine, people are dying. He was dying. Fine, who can I teach? He was dead. Fine, what's next?

My friend Steven would tell you what's next. More work. Quiet work. Unassuming work. Work you can do. Work that needs doing. Work you will love. Work that will bring you love.

My friend Steven would tell you to volunteer. Hand out tickets for Shanti's Activities program. Flip pancakes at Laguna Honda Hospice. Collect pennies for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Make a panel for the NAMES quilt. Deliver meals for Open Hand. Or find something else to do ... and do it.

My friend Steven taught us. You don't need to be heroic to be a hero. He was my hero. And I thought I couldn't have heroes anymore.

My friend, Steven Slaton, received Shanti's 1995 Leadership Award a month before he died. His work on behalf of people with AIDS goes on. Please help.

Kevin P. Murphy
San Francisco

An oral lesson

At the STOP AIDS Project, there is one question our volunteers and staff hear most frequently: How safe is oral sex? We know there is much anxiety in the community around oral sex and that many of us base our decisions more on anecdotes and intuition and less on science and research. On Friday January 12, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., STOP AIDS Project will be hosting a community forum on this topic at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street.

A panel discussion between scientific and community health experts will be followed by open discussion. We encourage anyone with questions, concerns, and interest to join us.

We believe this kind of public dialogue can make for a healthier, more informed community. And we hope to see you there.

Frederic Sonnenberg
Executive Director, STOP AIDS Project

Legalizing needles

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) refuses to recognize one of the oldest and most commonly used medical devices in history: the acupuncture needle. According to FDA documents, acupuncture needles have been in common use in the United States for over 200 years, yet they have been classified as "investigational devices" by the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) of the FDA. This classification makes outlaws of acupuncturists and their patients. In 1994, acupuncturists and researchers presented citizen petitions to the FDA to change the classification of acupuncture needles to allow their legal use by licensed practitioners. Federal regulations require that the FDA respond to citizen petitions within six months, but there has been no response to date, almost two years later.

The FDA has been unwilling even to admit that acupuncture needles perform "safely and effectively" as a device designed to puncture the skin. Can the FDA not find one legitimate use for acupuncture? The FDA will not reveal its hand, and apparently political pressure will have to be brought to bear to force them to rule on acupuncture needles. We urge your readers to call their U.S. representative or senator today and ask them to find out "When will the FDA legalize acupuncture needles?"

Howard Moffet
Clinical Faculty
American College of
Traditional Chinese Medicine

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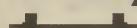
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LETTERS

Staff suggestions

Thank you for Stephanie von Buchau. Don Blake (Letters, Dec. 28) has it right: the best. Hope it was not a one-time shot. The only two periodicals in my house, you and *Opera News*, seem to have some common goals, funny thing. And keep Michael Botkin alive forever. Murder Wayne Friday.

Thank you for existing.

Michael J. Kressbach
San Francisco

Malicious upgrade

I appreciate the attention paid to the plight of San Francisco Office Supplies, as reported by Dennis Conkin, in the Dec. 28 edition of the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Ms. Seto's attorney, David Blumenfield, made a wholly fallacious statement when he alleged that December 22 was the only time Ms. Seto had available to savage my store. Since the operation was somewhat less complex than constructing the Bay Bridge, involving Ms. Seto with her vacuum cleaner, her husband with his drill, and some acolyte serving no discernible purpose beyond sagacious agreement to ponderous pronouncements from headquarters, it is difficult to know why the holes that had to be drilled could not have been done on December 26 or even (God forbid) several years ago when she was on official notice that the building was in need of substantial upgrading.

Of course, she may not have been able to do any work to bring the building up to code when she was first informed of the necessity, since she had evidently entered into some sort of agreement to host the ARS (American Rodent Society) Annual conclave in my storage room in 1995. It was, by the way, vastly successful, judging by the various critters (none, unfortunately, endangered) sighted and the vast mother-lode of droppings available for the delight of my customers.

Mr. Blumenfield's statement that access to the premises had been refused by me previously is (how shall I say this charitably, and in a form suitable for publication?) a noxious lie. As he, himself, pointed out in writing, Ms. Seto has the absolute right, as a landlord, to create whatever havoc she wishes whenever she wishes, a contractual provision supported by law that is hard to understand.

Ms. Seto's malicious and discriminatory treatment of my store, in a building which has other commercial space not drilled, probed and violated, is a flagrant attempt at intimidation, onerous on its face and deleterious to the Castro Area.

I do appreciate the B.A.R.'s comprehensive and sensitive support of our community's problems and concerns.

Wesley W. Waite
San Francisco

Loving gay youths

On Friday, December 15, a man facing life in prison committed suicide. His crime was "sexual activity" with teenaged boys. May David Hodges rest in peace.

How many men must die in prison or at their own hands before some semblance of sanity returns to our state and our nation? How many men must lose their lives and livelihoods for loving gay youths before gay "leaders" speak out? How many more stories must begin like a Boyd McDonald gay sex history and end up like a Greek tragedy?

At the age of 12 when I became sexually active, I knew what puberty was, and that I was no "child." I knew, as the Santa Rosa Police Department apparently does not, that the average age of puberty in this country is 12 years, 8 months, and that I was typical in this respect. I also knew I was a gay youth, with an older lover. What I did not know was that he could've gotten decades in prison for one of our many nights of passion, or that I might have been abused by the police if I'd refused to cooperate. I had no idea how often this has happened, and how terribly it has often ended. I only knew that I wanted a good friend and a good blow-job, and my first lover represented both of these things.

I am writing now because I have just read *The Boston Sex Scandal*, by gay columnist John Mitzel (following the tradition of John Gerasi's *The Boys of Boise*), and I know that the death of David Hodges was not a fluke. It is part of an ongoing tragedy which escalated dramatically in the 1950s and threatens now to disrupt the whole of our culture – as the scourge of homophobia, which has boiled over, is now transformed into a new kind of age-based ideology that divides the generations disastrously.

I shudder to think what my life would've been like if my first affair hadn't happened, or worse, if it had been exposed. I do not now envy the boys who used to go to "batting practice" at Hodges's home, for the way they are likely being treated by quacks and cops. The cop says of Hodges: "There was no indication he was gay." But says nothing of whether any of his adolescent male visitors might be "gay." I certainly hope not, if being "gay" means giving the cold shoulder to the kind of lonely, horny kid I once was.

Bill Duckett
San Francisco

Tragedy in Santa Rosa Diocese

This letter is in regard to a minor editorial error in Mr. Dennis Conkin's article headed, "New Santa Rosa Sex Abuse Case Ends in Suicide" in your December 21 edition. This is, admittedly, a minor issue, but it is one of those "fingernails on the chalkboard" things that calls into question a publication's attention to detail and therefore one's overall credibility. In all fairness, I've seen major metropolitan dailies, despite all of their resources, make the same error.

You refer to the Archdiocese of Santa Rosa. There is no such thing. There is simply the Diocese of Santa Rosa. The organization of the Catholic Church is based upon the division of the entire world into geographic regions, each known as a diocese, and each diocese is under the rule of a bishop who is appointed by the Pope. In bygone centuries, before the advent of modern transportation and communication, bishops of certain major cities were given, in addition to the responsibility for the administration of their own diocese, an added responsibility. Should any of several nearby bishops die, they were to oversee his diocese until the Pope could be informed and a new bishop installed. To these bishops, the title of Archbishop was given. And so, a diocese governed by an Archbishop is an Archdiocese.

There are approximately a dozen dioceses in the State of California: Santa Rosa, Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, Monterey, Fresno, San Luis Obispo (I think), San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, possibly one or two more. Of these, only San Francisco and Los Angeles are Archdioceses. The rest are simply Dioceses. The Most Reverend Patrick Ziemer, Bishop of Santa Rosa, is most definitely not an Archbishop.

Incidentally, the Archbishop of Los Angeles is generally (although not necessarily) a Cardinal, which means that he is one of those 150 or so from around the world (but heavily from Italy) who vote to elect the Pope.

All of this aside, I cannot resist passing along one small observation on the facts presented: the State went to considerable lengths to develop the charges against both men and demanded rather Draconian retribution for their offenses. Yet, large numbers of underage girls undergo abortions every year. Pregnancy is prima facie evidence of sexual activity. And studies have revealed that many, if not most, of these pregnancies were the result of encounters with males several, if not many, years older. Many of these encounters were coerced. None are investigated unless the girl (or her father) presses a rape or similar charge.

Yesterday's *San Jose Mercury-News*, in quite another context, referred to a 17-year-old girl who had had four children by her 71-year-old stepfather! This suggests that the old goat had been plugging her since she was 13! Not only was nothing done, they ended up as guests on a TV talk show. Had there been the slightest evidence that the old man had been fooling around with a 13-year-old stepson, there'd have been a vigorous investigation and he could almost certainly expect to die in prison.

I find the sexual exploitation and abuse of children of either sex to be reprehensible. But I find the obvious double standard and all that it implies to be truly horrifying. And when we, in a misguided attempt to be "responsible," attempt to deny such fringe groups as NAMBLA and other such organizations the right to advocate (note that I did not say "practice") sex with kids or whatever, we grant our enemies a certain moral permission to deny us a voice and impose their prejudices upon us, thereby contributing mightily to our own oppression.

Jerome M. Foster
San Jose, CA

The burden of medical bills

Re "Rohana's Med Bills Keep Mounting" (Dec. 14 issue):

Even though my heart, as well as other well-wishers' hearts, go out to Mr. Rohana for his misfortune, first with the shooting, then with his medical bills, I find this article very disheartening and pandering to the general public.

I, like so many other people with an illness, became disabled last January 31. This January, my main source of income (State Disability Fund) ends, cutting my income in half. Unfortunately, my bills are going to remain the same. I will begin to experience a tremendous burden of medical bills. This stress will be increased later this year when I start paying for COBRA.

On top of that, I, like many others, will still have to pay an annual deductible plus a 20% co-pay for my insurance. Along with this I will have my regular bills (rent, utilities, etc.) to manage. Who will be there for me? For the rest of us?

I think Mr. Rohana is experiencing what quite a few of us are managing and struggling through ... debt. I suggest he get an attorney to get the bill collectors off his back, but I also suggest that he keep making partial payments and count his blessings that his life was spared. At least he'll be able to enjoy family, friends and the spirit of a Higher Love for quite some time.

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco



Photo: Rick Gerhardt

Although he couldn't compete with Da Mayor's extravaganza, Terence Hallinan nonetheless described his Jan. 8 swearing in as our next DA by longtime friend Judge John Dearman as the high point of his life.

Da Mayor Is In

Mayor Willie Brown took office Monday in a manner befitting an English monarch, and San Franciscans are clearly expecting great things from their newly crowned leader. The election of the city's first African-American mayor, in which Brown took over 95% of the black vote, has also brought hope to the city's minority populations as well.

Hope does spring eternal, and San Franciscans are hoping that Brown can use his political skills honed by more than 30 years in the state Legislature to unite a city divided by police misconduct, a rampant drug problem, and the increasing numbers of homeless on our streets. (Not to mention crime on the buses, the lack of affordable housing, deteriorating housing, the AIDS epidemic, etc.)

Willie "No Honeymoon" Brown certainly recognizes that all these problems exist, and during his campaign and since his December 12 election, he has promised to act on them as fast as humanly possible. How will he keep these promises? "Performance," he said at a news conference after his runoff victory. "The level of performance I'm prepared to engage in to make good on my promises."

Beau Brummell Brown, known for his love of pricey suits, flashy cars, and expensive restaurants, seems well-qualified and sincerely determined to make the necessary changes. "I know why this city is in trouble," Brown explained recently. "Standards, rules and regulations have been so long in place, and are designed to discourage and block change." Describing himself as "a quick study," Brown claims that "I am able to absorb volumes of information quickly" and pledges to move immediately to make changes in municipal government.

Our mayor has also been quoted as saying: "I'm also a pro. In 31 years, I've learned how to do the job. I'm not gloom. I'm not into doom. I hope San Francisco takes my style. I hope San Francisco takes on my attitude. All of that comes from me."

Sounds like we won't have to worry about this mayor being a shrinking violet — a little Napoleon *peut-être*. Even Mr. Brown's closest friends admit he has a very healthy ego, but so what! I'll bet the guy delivers and gets the job done. We'll compare notes a year from now. Good luck and Godspeed, Mr. Mayor.

Politics and Poker

The rumor that won't die! I

keep getting tips from numerous sources that the Democrats desperately want to take back the statehouse in '98 and are continuing to lean heavily on Dianne Feinstein to try again. Many checkbook Dems feel Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis owes his present job to his GOP opponent's lackluster campaign and would be unable to win the Big One.

Commentary

Another hot rumor has President Clinton's White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, a former Monterey-area congressman, considering a shot at Sacramento. How do the Dems avoid a costly and divisive primary clash? That's an easy one: Feinstein runs, Panetta sits it out, and if DiFi wins, she appoints him to succeed her in the Senate. A Feinstein spokeswoman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the senator "will not close off any options." Hmm!

Even though his presidential candidacy flopped badly and he pulled out of a race he was never really in, Pete Wilson will receive \$1.6 million from the feds this year — matching funds from the Federal Elections Commission and taxpayer money, I might add. I didn't ask him to run, did you? Did anybody?

Carol Ruth Silver for Congress? Yep, seems she's officially moved to the North Coast to run against incumbent Republican Frank Riggs in the 1st Congressional District.

Caroline Marks, Milton's wife, is picking up some big endorsements for her super race.

Look for Hawaii to become the nation's first state to legalize gay marriage this year. A gubernatorial commission has recommended that gay couples be allowed to marry, but the Legislature there has not changed the law to allow it. The Hawaii state Supreme Court has ruled that denying marriage licenses to gay couples is unconstitutional unless the state can prove a "compelling interest." The Hawaii state attorney general is preparing to argue the case for a "compelling interest" before the court in July, but current bets are that legal gay marriage in Hawaii will be a fact and soon.

Polls such as the *New York Times/CBS* News Poll and others show President Clinton emerging from the federal budget standoff with his highest ratings in two years. The Newt and presidential wannabe Bob Dole are very ner-

vous. Sixty-one percent of voters polled said President Clinton was more earnest than the GOP in trying to find a solution for the budget impasse, while only 43% think the Republicans are really trying.

In one of her first actions in her new job, New Jersey Insurance Commissioner Elizabeth Randall (appointed by GOP Governor Christine Todd Whitman) killed a proposed rule that would have let group insurance companies screen for HIV and deny coverage to those who test positive.

To the surprise of no one, Representative Tom Lantos announced he will seek re-election to the 9th Congressional District (parts of San Francisco and the Peninsula). This guy is beginning to look like California's version of Strom Thurmond.

Friends and supporters of gay attorney Kevin McCarthy are holding a reception/fundraiser for the bright young lawyer's Superior Court race (March 1996) on Monday, January 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Yank Sing Restaurant, 427 Battery St. Contributions of \$50 or up are requested. Call 414-7156 for information.

European entertainers haven't really made it until either the Queen of England or the French Legion of Honor officially presents them with an award. The American equivalent would be...an engraved pen from the White House? Well, rocker Elton John is now a Commander of the British Empire, having been on the New Year Honors list announced by Queen Elizabeth II. John, who was Britain's top-earning pop star in 1994, has raised millions for his Elton John AIDS Foundation. During a highly publicized interview last year, he was asked by news diva Barbara "I'll Make You Cry" Walters: "Elton, are you bisexual?" The superstar looked straight into Walters' eyes and quietly declared, "No, Barbara. I am a homosexual."

A tip to the thousands of k.d. lang fans out there: your favorite chanteuse appears two nights only, February 19 and 20, at Oakland's Paramount Theatre, and tickets are selling fast.

My Quote of the Week is from someone I consider a hero in a world that has few heroes left: AIDS patient and activist Jeff Getty. Getty, when leaving San Francisco General Hospital last week after receiving a baboon bone marrow transplant that doctors hope will save his life, announced: "To the naysayers who said that I would never recover from this procedure, well, here I am. And you were wrong."

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SAPPHISTICATION

New Queer's Weave

by Beth Elliott

As far as rockin' in the new year goes, this one was a DIY (do-it-yourself) affair for the Sapphisticated one. A bunch of my oldest and dearest friends waited till the day to gather ourselves, our voices and our guitars down in Pacifica to create our own entertainment. It probably wasn't queer enough for some folk's tastes, but any party where I get cheered on for playing original tunes with blatantly lesbian lyrics works for me.

Saying my old roommate Ryckje married a musician doesn't even begin to hint at this tribe's complex, boundary-crossing history. Ryckje had just left her husband, many moons ago, when she took up with both said musician, John (who was 16 at the time), and me (who was but a few years older), and moved into a room in the Inner Sunset household we would call the Irving Street Home for Wayward Girls. The two of them are still together, and Ryck and I still can't keep our hands off each other.

So here they had a house full of friends and bandmates old and new (not to mention half of Ryckje's women's choral class) and more Martin guitars than I've ever seen in one place outside of George Gruhn's guitar shop in Nashville. We did the song about the pretty woman. We did the song

about the night. We had the big fun for our face.

The day underscored a passage I'd just read in the *East Bay Express* book supplement (Hillary Mullins on two books about the Beats and 1920s Left Bank lesbians): "Like creativity, survival is something people pursue with individual and group resources." Those two lineages actually meet

Commentary

both in my circles of close friends/extended family of choice and in the roots of the (post) modern Bay Area lesbian community; the quote resonates in the remarks friends and I make about wanting to live on land with each other. When we talk this way, it's an acknowledgment of these two lineages' importance in our lives – but also an admission that we no longer look to a larger community of kindred spirits for belonging and mutual assistance.

The true path

The Beats looked to reject dull conformity for adventures and altered states of consciousness – not necessarily as ends in themselves (the exhilarating freedom of being in the moment notwithstanding), but as a path to discover what it truly means to be human. They influenced a bunch of Bay Area folk musicians who gained access to trials of a new psychoactive drug – LSD – and went on to spawn and popularize a new artistically and mystically oriented counterculture.

From this counterculture came some of the lesbians who wanted to birth another counterculture, one that would be for women to love, bond with and build community with other women. Some envisioned the mutual support and artistic inspiration of the Left Bank lesbians combined with the Beat/hippie dedication to finding out what it meant to be women, as defined by women. If this sounds farfetched, how do you explain the Goddess revival and ecofeminism? (And if you're tempted to think of this as a fluke, Terrence McKenna makes an excellent case for the role of ritual psychedelic plant ingestion in nature-oriented, female-positive societies in his book *The Food of the Gods*).

Unfortunately, not all the people these scenes attracted got the vision sustaining the fun, the method to the madness – or the work it takes to maintain an alternative economy. I nodded sadly during the Beatles television anthology, when George Harrison spoke of their notion of moving to San Francisco until he toured the

Haight and found less exploration of consciousness than ordinary substance abuse by those who wanted more from the community than they were willing and able to put in.

The big squeeze

And didn't our "women's community" get squeezed between political exploitation and those who, like the runaways to the Haight, expected to be taken care of without necessarily contributing to the nurturing of the community to which they looked for an endless supply of fun? Here we are, a quarter century after Stonewall, and what we have is part collection of good-time scenes, part community. What large-scale network we have feels inaccessible to too many woman-loving women; they either face rejection for not being part of the urban in-groups, or back away from things like Reverse Honky Tonk Angel Syndrome (too many single women acting like "married" lesbians are still available). We've yet to accomplish what the Left Bank lesbians did in terms of seeking creativity and survival together, though this was once an ideal held high.

I don't miss a hippie community that terribly. There are enough friends and other folks around who've held onto the positive ideals for me to feel comfortable. Moreover, I think whatever drug culture is left lost most of its ideals a long time ago; it's now more about getting loaded than opening the Doors of Perception (title of an influential Aldous Huxley book). Some folks are continuing serious psychedelic studies; as long as that work's available, I don't care whether it's popular. I sure wouldn't mind a revival of the old lesbian hippie sub-subculture, though, as long as it's one that's kept maturing and learning from experience as my friends seem to have done.

Meanwhile, I continue a long-standing pattern of ambivalence about being marginalized in the current incarnation of lesbian community. After all, I do have a wonderful extended family in which to be myself. But just when I feel most disappointed in the community, I find myself sensing that its evolution is a spiral: another turn, and women will get over their attitudes and weave ideals into community again. It's like my thorough lack of interest in this wave of "baby boomers turning 50" stories: I don't give a rat's ass, and won't give a rat's ass when I turn 50. There are generations of lesbians coming along making changes just as substantial, and I want to be a part of that continued evolution. ▼

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Taxi Hijacker

Continued from page 1

ket at Collingwood and 18th streets.

Kristofferson was arraigned on charges of robbery, battery with bodily injury, assault with a deadly weapon, and unlawful possession of tear gas Wednesday, January 10.

Havin' a Crime Wave ...

Meanwhile, Castro and Upper Market area merchants are expressing increasing concern about the downside of that area's heavy traffic. New Year's Eve left two Noe Street stores, Take Sushi and Jumpin' Java, with smashed-in storefront windows; in addition, Take Sushi's \$10,000 refrigeration system was stolen.

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Robert Aikens told the *Bay Area Reporter* he has been appointed chair of the Safety and Crime Committee of the Merchants of Upper Market group, to work with police and merchants in combating what many see as a crime wave.

Aikens added that he plans to hold a fundraiser for Community United Against Violence sometime this year, out of gratitude for their compassion and referrals to community resources after his Market Street store was held up at gun-point on the opening day of business.

Other stores held up at gun- or knife-point in December include the Eros Club on Market Street, Aardvark Books on Church Street, Suzanne's Muffins on Castro Street, and Kinko's Copies and The Gap, both located on Market Street. ▼

Sperm Donation HIV Tests Vital to Lesbian Baby Boom

by Mary Ann Swisssler

To many AIDS educators it sounds like common sense: lesbians who plan to be artificially inseminated should have the sperm tested for the presence of HIV antibodies.

Surprisingly, it was not until 1985 that many sperm banks began testing donors for HIV. Today the CDC, the FDA, and the American Fertility Society strongly advise using only frozen sperm samples obtained by sperm banks that test for HIV at the time of donation — and six months later, according to Portola Valley fertility specialist Dr. Lyn Westphahl. Although fresh, unfrozen sperm is easier to get pregnant with, the risks of getting AIDS outweigh the advantages.

Four out of five women receiving sperm donations from HIV-positive donors later contracted

'Reputable Banks Around'

Westphahl told the *Bay Area Reporter* she sees a lot of mistrust of doctors by her lesbian patients, but said she does not believe widespread homophobia exists among sperm banks.

"Any reputable sperm bank will work with someone not in a heterosexual relationship," she said. "I think it's important for women to know that they can get specimens that are tested very thoroughly, there are reputable banks around."

The disadvantage of using a frozen specimen is that it does tend to get more expensive than if you get a fresh specimen from someone you know," she said, adding that she delivered the child of someone who inseminated herself that way.

"Going through this whole fertility process is really stressful," she acknowledged. "I think you

bians have a built-in self-censor until a certain level of trust is built up, Westphahl said. "I think a lot of women are uncomfortable to bring the issue up and they're not sure how it's going to be accepted. And the medical establishment is fairly conservative, so patients are often afraid to bring this up."

"I've had a number of patients who, only after I've gotten to know them for awhile, have come out and said that they were lesbians." ▼



Dr. Lyn Westphahl: "Any reputable sperm bank will work with someone not in a heterosexual relationship."

AIDS, according to a March 15, 1995 article appearing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Worldwide, 12 cases of HIV infection in women from artificial insemination are known: four in Australia, two in Canada, and six in the United States. "The tragedy of these cases is compounded by the fear that more have gone unrecognized," according to the article by Dr. Mary E. Guinan.

The little research that has been conducted on lesbians and AIDS by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) indicates HIV infection from artificial insemination is practically non-existent among gay women. Rather, over 90 percent of HIV infection among lesbians in a 1991 study occurred through IV drug use.

really need to be able to trust your healthcare provider. I think if you're hiding things you obviously don't trust them much and it makes it more stressful. I think it's easier to provide high quality care when you have total trust from the patient and you communicate well.

"What the medical community needs to work on is helping people from all backgrounds feel accepted."

Westphahl said that lesbian couples are still, as a group, poorer and are less likely to have health insurance, but said the scope of the problem is larger than that would indicate. "In general," she told the *B.A.R.*, "even women who have money and are well-educated, [and] who are lesbian, tend not to go to their physicians as often."

Even when they go, many les-

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GLAAD

Bad News, Group

by Al Kielwasser

In a massive capitulation to censorship, the world's leading online service - CompuServe, Inc. - has suspended access to over 200 Internet newsgroups. The new ban was orchestrated during the last week of 1995.

Though it affects all CompuServe users around the globe, the ban was initiated at the request of just one country - Germany. According to a company spokesperson, "German government officials, as part of an investigation of illegal material on the Internet, ordered CompuServe to do what was necessary with respect to specified newsgroups in order to comply with German law."

CompuServe currently has 500,000 clients in Western Europe, and hopes to quickly double that number. Overall, the company currently services more than 4 million users in more than 140 million countries.

"Newsgroups" are specialized forums that allow Internet users to read or post information on almost any conceivable subject. By one estimate, there are currently over 16,000 active newsgroups, dedicated to everything from baseball (rec.sport.baseball) to bondage (alt.sex.bondage).

Most of the newsgroups banned by CompuServe addressed (or simply appeared to address) an erotic or sex-related theme. The company deleted a number of lesbian, gay and bisexual groups *including* groups that had no erotic focus. CompuServe banned news-

groups dedicated to resources for young queers, lesbian/gay journalism, and information about coming out.

Of course, lumping all lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender subjects under the heading "sexually explicit" is inaccurate as well as defamatory. The definition of heterosexual lives is never limited only to sex acts.

It would still be unacceptable, however, even if CompuServe had "only" banned *sexually-explicit* newsgroups. The censorship of such groups - queer or otherwise - is equally retarded and regressive.

As queer communities know, *sex negativity* goes hand-in-hand with *homophobia*. Prohibitions against the sexual communication of "pornography" and "obscenity" lead, inevitably, to prohibitions against *homosexual* communication of any kind.

Acting with very little integrity, CompuServe has attempted to deflect criticism by claiming the company is at the complete mercy of German law. A CompuServe spokesperson explained, "CompuServe did not select any groups or determine the nature of the newsgroups that have been impacted by this action."

If one person selects the titles, but another person strikes the match, aren't both guilty of book burning? A censor who is following someone else's orders is still a censor.

To demand that CompuServe act as a mature, responsible caretaker of free expression on the Internet, contact Robert Massey, President, CompuServe, Inc., 5000 Arlington Center Boulevard, Columbus Ohio 43220, tel. 614-457-0802, e-mail 70006,101@compuserve.com. CompuServe members can also complain directly to customer service, via "GO FEEDBACK."

Voices of Reason

Lynn Minton's "Fresh Voices" has scored another successive hit against homophobia. The column, in which Minton moderates youth discussions of current affairs, is published weekly in *Parade* magazine. *Parade* is a popular tabloid, inserted in the Sunday editions of newspapers throughout the country.

Titled "Who Is Your Own Kind?", Minton's December 24 column features teen perspectives on the use of slurs in school. Minton talked with a panel of four high-school youth, ranging from 16- to 18-years-old. Their discussion spanned issues of "political correctness," free speech, racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia.

One young man, John Bechtold (age 18), attempted to argue that when students use slurs like "nigger" and "fag," they are not attacking any particular group in a bigoted way. "It's just used as another insult," he said. "It's not referring to a person or group of persons."

Bechtold challenged Bechtold to think again. "Suppose I'm a black person," Minton said, "and somebody in the hall says 'nigger.' He isn't really prejudiced - he's just using the term as an insult. You think I won't find that offensive."

During the discussion, one of the younger students - Jennifer Kalweit (age 16) - pointed out a problem in her school that is common in many others. "Basically," Kalweit said, "there's no diversity here. ... You walk through the halls, and you hear comments: 'You're a nigger.' Or, 'You're a faggot.' They just use it like any other word in their vocabulary."

Another student, Michelle Haff (age 16), agreed. Haff observed,

"People use the word 'faggot' in their everyday vocabulary. And it's just come to a point where some of us are sick of it."

Haff illustrated this problem, with a specific recollection: "Me and my friend were sitting in the library and two guys were talking, and my friend said, 'Will you please not use that word?' And they were like, 'Why? Faggot, faggot, faggot. Why does that bother you?' Another person at our table wrote the word 'fag' on a piece of paper and was flashing it in front of us and would not give up. And one guy said, 'I don't understand why it offends you. You're not gay. And no one in this room is gay.' He has no way of knowing that at all."

Commenting on Haff's recollection, Minton said, "Maybe you interpret your 'own kind' a little more broadly than some people." Haff responded, "Yes. Definitely. Humankind."

"Fresh Voices" provides a singular, high-profile and accessible forum for challenging bigotry (for example, the December 10 column interrogated the heinous notion of "special rights"). Through this column, Lynn Minton has consistently attempted to affirm young queer identities.

Support may be directed to Lynn Minton at Box 5103, Grand Central Station, New York NY 10163-5103 (Minton especially seeks feedback from teens). Copy your compliments to Carlo Vittorini, Chair and Publisher, *Parade*, Parade Publications, 711 Third Avenue, New York NY 10017.

Jeer Leader

Once again, the "Cheers & Jeers" column in *TV Guide* has given thumbs-down to homophobia. The December 30 *TV Guide* awards a well-earned "Jeer" to ABC for rescheduling a "gay wedding" episode of *Roseanne*. ABC claimed the time change was necessary to protect children from the (purportedly) "adult humor" in the episode.

Sensing the network's heterosexist double-standard, *TV Guide* questions "just how legit is ABC's concern over gay nuptials?" The magazine points out that another sitcom, on another network - NBC's *Friends* - will also feature a same-sex wedding story, on January 18. "And NBC plans to air the show at 8 (p.m.), just as it always does," says *TV Guide*. "Maybe that's the kind of thinking that put NBC in first place."

The insult is brief, but biting - and the significance of such critical asides should not be underestimated. *TV Guide* is, after all, the most widely circulated periodical in the United States. "Jeering" network homophobia seems a particularly good use of the magazine's privileged access to America's homes.

To send a cheer to *TV Guide's* new editor-in-chief, Steven Radcliffe, write him at *TV Guide*, Radnor PA 19088 (correspondence intended for publication should be directed to the "Letters Department," at the same address). ▼

To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, please call our 24-hour MediAlert Hotline (415-861-4588) or write to: GLAAD, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaadsfa@aol.com, URL <http://www.gaytrek.com/gaytrek/glaad.html>.

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Seen and heard: Two busloads of lesbian and gay youth descended on Sacramento to lobby for AB 1001 and make homophobe Rob Hurt's life a bit harder.

Gay Youth vs. Hurt, Homophobia in Sacramento

by Dennis Conkin

Times. An estimated 200 lesbian and gay youth and their supporters gathered at the State Capitol on Wednesday, January 3 for a day of lobbying in support of AB 1001. That measure, stalled in committee, would add sexual orientation to already existing non-discrimination requirements attached to public school funding allocations.

Many local gay and lesbian teens involved with Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center attended the Sacramento event sponsored by the LIFE AIDS Lobby, according to LYRIC spokesman Dennis Eisner.

"We filled two buses," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The all-day event included a rally that gave the youth an opportunity to speak out about anti-lesbian and gay discrimination, lobby legislators, and meet and network with other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth — many of whom came from non-urban areas, Eisner said.

The event also included direct action against virulently anti-gay state Senate minority leader Rob Hurt, who wants to re-criminalize consenting lesbian and gay sexual activity by introducing sodomy laws.

"We now have a plague on this earth that they're responsible for. Now, I think they ought to be held accountable," Hurt told the *LA*

The direct action was sponsored by BOY+BOY, an anti-homophobia and AIDS prevention effort among young queer men.

In the action, which denounced Hurt as an "agent of the radical right," BOY+BOY delivered hundreds of red heart-shaped balloons to Hurt's office.

The balloons were emblazoned with the message "Hurt Breeds Hate" and contained personal messages from youth activists about his comments and agenda.

According to BOY+BOY spokesman Robert Perez, queer youth had wanted to meet directly with Hurt to challenge his anti-gay statements and demand that "he put forth a meaningful agenda to fight the spread of HIV and end hatred and intolerance towards lesbians and gay men."

But when the youth activists arrived at Hurt's office, they found that he was not there, and the offices were closed.

One 14-year-old youth, out of a contingent of 50, was able to enter the office, speak with Hurt representatives, and demand a personal response from Hurt to his concerns.

"Californians need to recognize the potential damage that someone like Rob Hurt can do as an agent of the radical right," said BOY+BOY member Justin Louie. "If he continues to amass power while hiding his true agenda, the results will be devastating." ▼

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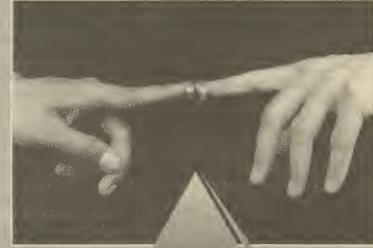
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Diana Ross and RuPaul Tell the B.A.R. About Surviving

by Karen Ocambo

For over nine hours Sunday, January 7 West Hollywood's "Boy's Town" was turned into a movie set for the making of Diana Ross' newest music video "I Will Survive" — introduced by a campy vignette with legend-in-the-making RuPaul and four shimmering, lip-sinking Ross look-alike backup "girl" singers.

As the legendary 51-year-old diva Miss Diana Ross danced on a float under a full moon in the heart of the Los Angeles gay community, nearly 3,000 lesbians and gays of all descriptions sang and posed along the sidelines.

Cream Cheese Films paid the city for street closure permits, 17 on-duty overtime Sheriff's

deputies, and parking at the Pacific Design Center. Santa Monica Boulevard between San Vicente and Robertson was shut down from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Actual "parade" filming didn't start until 9 p.m. Prior to that, Ross, RuPaul, and the four backup girl singers (three drags, one "real" girl) filmed a parody of the Supremes' famous "Stop! In The Name of Love" with RuPaul giving the "girls" instructions on how to do the "Stop!" properly — only to be interrupted by Ross's authoritative rendering.

Before filming and after make-up, Ross and RuPaul granted selected press interviews, including a few minutes with the *Bay Area Reporter*, the only gay press on the scene.

Both singers were very up-beat and seemed to sincerely enjoy each other's company. Ross frequently leaned over and touched her shoulder against the much taller RuPaul's arm when making a point, and RuPaul would reach out to touch Ross's hand intimately — but respectfully. The two also shared makeup tips during breaks.

Ross told the B.A.R. a mutual songwriter/producer friend introduced her to RuPaul in an airport, after which she decided she wanted to make "I Will Survive" with him.

'That Girl in the Middle'

"I thought — 'This is fabulous! Anything you want me to do, I'll be there,'" RuPaul said, touching Ross's hand. "I couldn't believe it. I mean, I used to watch her on American Bandstand with the Supremes.

"I'd point at the screen and say, 'That's me! That's my energy! That girl in the middle.' I've conducted myself as an entertainer by watching Diana Ross over the years."

Ross accepted the compliment graciously, then spoke about why she chose the song "I Will Survive," the 1970s hit for Gloria Gaynor.

"This song is about bouncing back through adversity," she said. "It's brilliant. It's amazing — that's why it's gone through the genera-

tions. I want to take it into the '90s."

"All my life," RuPaul said, "I've been planting seeds and watching them turn into fruit..."

"Me too," Ross interrupted, starting an almost private conversation with RuPaul, despite being surrounded by cameras, props, and scores of staring onlookers. "I write things down and put them in a drawer. I'm a dreamer: I see what it is I want, then I go and get there."

"You've done so much more than even you or I am aware of," RuPaul said, turning back to the reporter. "That's the thing about this song. It says, 'You can take it to the top. Never give up.'

"It's all inside. In the face of adversity, you have the power to make anything happen. Take problems as a challenge. That's why we came here — this is the Dream Factory. But it's a message that people can get all over the world."

"That's true, we could have done this video anywhere. But I see a lot of costumes," Ross said, waving to the drag queens nearby. "That's why I say in the trailer [to the video], 'This is dedicated to the girls — and you know who you are.' I say it with a wink, because I don't want people to think I'm just talking about my own girls.

"But the song is for everyone. It's for parents ... when I start thinking about mothers on welfare and kids being taken from their parents and orphanages — I shudder. I know that's really hard, especially if you're out of work."

"For people with a problem with gays and lesbians, I say get over it."
— Diana Ross



Call her Miss Ross and her Mrs. Paul: Drag

Miss Diana Ross continued, "I say get over it and stop judging."

"There are good and bad people in this world and I don't want to be with bad people, I want to be with good people. I think eventually people will understand."

As the singers spoke with the B.A.R., the production team was busily trying to recreate the annual Christopher Street West Pride Parade along the boulevard. No one seemed to mind or notice that the parade really occurs on a June morning — possibly because the weather that day reached an all-time high of 87 degrees, with temperatures in the balmy 60s that night.

The only glitch was keeping the unpaid extras around, both during the long hours before the shoot and after the first few takes. But the chance to be in a Diana Ross music video did prompt the crowd to scream enthusiastically as Dykes on Bikes roared their engines. The women were then

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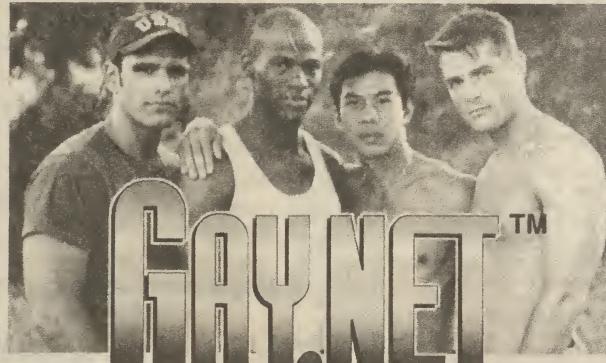


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Photo: Karen Ocam

Paul: Drag diva RuPaul (left) snuggles up to his idol, Motown legend Diana Ross.

waved off to lead Ross's make-believe parade float: a pink "nightclub" stage with a bubbling glass of champagne on the back riser.

The plan also called for contingents of Christopher Street West (CSW), Gay Asian Pacific Network, the Freedom to Marry Project (wearing Hawaiian shirts), the California AIDS Ride, GLAAD, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence of Los Angeles (their first appearance after recently officially opening that chapter), the West Hollywood Cheerleaders, and a bevy of drag beauties to follow the float from a side street. The groups had been assembled with less than a week's notice by CSW's veteran executive director Michael Yates.

Unfortunately, on the first run-through the crowd joined in before

the waiting contingents were waved in by the stage manager, and the whole chaotic parade wound up wandering off into the darkness. Thinking the rehearsal was the real thing, many in the crowd also wandered off, and were replaced by late-coming curiosity seekers.

After 11:30, with the repetition of the four-minute song and shot, the crowd started to dwindle. Filming ended around 1:30 a.m.

CSW didn't receive any money for cooperating, but Yates told the *B.A.R.*, "We did it and were happy to do it because it was pitched to us as promoting gay and lesbian pride.

"The point of the video is to present a gay-positive image."

There is no airdate yet for the music video, which will air on MTV, VH-1 and BET. ▼



Photo: Karen Ocam

Damien Wood and Rodney Clara of Oakland recreate their reactions as Diana Ross and RuPaul ride by.

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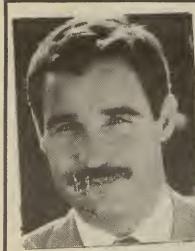
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NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court Rejection OKs School Condom Program

by Michael Kirkland, UPI

The Supreme Court refused Monday, January 8 to review a case involving free condoms distributed to grades 7 through 12 in the Falmouth, Massachusetts school system.

The refusal leaves in place a decision by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, allowing the program.

The Falmouth School Committee broached the idea of condom distribution to combat disease and pregnancy in 1991 in a series of public meetings.

The condom distribution program began in January 1992, but caused so much controversy school authorities put the issue to a vote the following May. Despite intense opposition, the program was approved by a majority of the voters in Falmouth.

At Lawrence Junior High School, students could request

free condoms from the school nurse. But the students had to receive counseling before their requests would be honored, and the school nurse was also instructed to give students pamphlets on AIDS/HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

At Falmouth High School, students could get condoms free from the school nurse, or buy them for 75 cents in bathroom vending machines.

A group of students and their parents, some of whom live in nearby Mashpee, Massachusetts, filed suit against the policy in state court.

The Mashpee residents pointed out that there is no high school in their town and their children must attend Falmouth High School, but they were not able to vote in the Falmouth election approving the condom program.

"Students attending Lawrence Junior High School

range in age from 11 years to 16 years," the group told the Supreme Court in a brief. "Without parental knowledge or permission, and indeed despite express parental objections, the school nurse ... may give these students condoms and instructions on the use of them."

The brief said the program has no provision by which a parent may keep his or her child from getting the condoms.

A state judge granted the school system summary judgment, and the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts affirmed.

The state's highest court said the program "is in all respects voluntary and in no way intrudes into the realm of constitutionally protected rights."

The group of parents and students asked the Supreme Court for review. The justices rejected the case without comment. ▼

Court Rejects Suit by 'Gay Bashing Neo-Numbskull'

United Press International

The U.S. Supreme Court declined, earlier this week, to rule on an Ohio high court decision rejecting a former state Senate candidate's lawsuit against the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled last year that columnist Joseph Dirck was expressing his

opinion when he wrote Loren Loving Vail disliked homosexuals.

Vail ran for a Senate seat on the Republican ticket in 1990, and in October the newspaper published Dirck's column stating Vail "doesn't like gay people."

Dirck accused Vail of "gay-bashing" and utilizing "neo-

numbskull tactics" as a part of her campaign, and said Vail "can't even be upfront" about those tactics.

Vail, who was defeated by Democrat Eric Fingerhut, sued Dirck and the Plain Dealer Publishing Co. in Ohio court, accusing them of defamation and intentionally inflicting emotional distress. ▼

Salvation

Continued from page 1

sexuality is an abomination."

Too Butch?

According to Koppel, the Army captain told him that he was just sexually confused and probably heterosexual.

"He thought I was too butch to be gay," he said.

The Salvation Army's cure for Koppel left him upset and outraged.

"He told me that I had to stop relating to gay people, attending gay Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous meetings," Koppel said.

But renouncing his friends, associates, and support groups wasn't all that the Army wanted — apparently they wanted complete control of Koppel, he said.

"He also told me that I had to stop seeing my gay therapist," Koppel told the B.A.R.

"It was very upsetting. I could-

n't believe that he was actually demanding that I stop seeing my therapist. I felt he was taking advantage of my vulnerability," Koppel said.

Koppel's disbelief and shock quickly turned to outrage, and he told the Salvation Army captain counselor that his suggestions were "totally unacceptable."

The Salvation Army's response was quick, unequivocal, and clearly retaliatory — and Koppel will remember it the rest of his life.

"He said, 'Leave here now,'" Koppel told the B.A.R.

'Really Mean'
A relapsing Koppel was expelled back to the harsh life of the street he was trying desperately to escape.

When Koppel returned the next day to try to pick up his scant possessions he was told the captain counselor had tried — unsuccessfully — to have recycled Koppel's clothes into the Army's thrift store program.

"I went to pick up my stuff and

was told that the captain had tried to order them recycled. That was really mean. He wanted to give me a bad time," Koppel said.

A distraught Koppel tried to turn to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission for assistance in what he thought was clearly an incident of anti-gay discrimination, but like many people caught up in street life, he just didn't have the resources to follow through.

"It's pretty rough on the street, and I was staying in transient hotels that had no phone, or I didn't have any money to make a phone call. It was really hard," Koppel said.

Had Koppel connected with the city agency, it would have taken his complaint seriously, said HRC discrimination investigator Larry Brinkin.

"One the face of it, what he is saying is something that we would have seriously investigated. Any program that receives city funds cannot discriminate in services on the basis of sexual orientation," Brinkin said.

The HRC is aware of the current controversy involving the Salvation Army and is monitoring the situation, Brinkin said.

Brinkin, one of three discrimination investigators with the HRC Lesbian and Gay and AIDS/HIV unit, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his agency has also requested a formal opinion and guidelines from the City Attorney's office concerning religious groups that deliver city services. ▼

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Oregon Gay GOP Backs Fundies' Senate Candidate

by Mary Ann Swissler

The old expression that politics make strange bedfellows is especially true for Oregon's January 30 special election to replace U.S. Senator Bob Packwood, who was forced to resign last year after the Senate Ethics Committee found him guilty of sexual misconduct.

Republican candidate and former Oregon State Assemblyman Gordon Smith garnered the endorsements of both the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the group behind anti-gay initiatives since 1991, and of an openly gay Republican Oregon State Assemblyman, Chuck Carpenter, who is himself up for re-election in March.

Carpenter is one of five openly gay members of the Oregon House of Representatives: two men, two lesbians and one bisexual female. He is also one of four candidates in Oregon races receiving donations from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund this year, according to that group's Executive Director David Clarenbach.

Carpenter told the B.A.R. it was Smith's pro-life stance that prompted the OCA to endorse him, but he added that Smith has always voted in favor of gay issues. Even so, many Oregon gays and lesbians are outraged at Carpenter for standing behind a candidate tainted by OCA support.

"It's been rather ugly," Carpenter acknowledged, adding that he wished it hadn't become an issue. "My endorsement of Gordon is not going to change the outcome of this election."

"I've worked with Gordon over the past year now and I've done quite a bit of legislative work



Chuck Carpenter.

with him. I appreciate the fact that as a Republican he's been willing to stand up against these anti-gay initiatives," he said.

"That's not to say that there aren't any areas of disagreement on gay and lesbian issues," he admitted, but said Smith has always been willing to sit down and talk. "He's not a liberal, but he's not a right-wing wacko."

Carpenter said that Smith vowed to have a non-discrimination policy in place in his office that will include sexual orientation — but one sticking point is Smith's recent statement that landlords should be allowed to discriminate against homosexuals for religious reasons. The so-called religious exemption is the same type outlined in the Congressional Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which President Clinton finally endorsed last October.

Carpenter said, "Obviously I wouldn't want anybody to be discriminated against because they are gay or lesbian."

Clarenbach told the B.A.R. that he spoke with Carpenter about his

endorsement and was satisfied with Smith's opposition to anti-gay rights initiatives while in the Oregon House of Representatives. He said if Smith is elected, Carpenter would be in a position to influence one of the few moderate Republicans in the U.S. Senate. Clarenbach said that while he does not personally agree with Smith's pro-life stance, joining forces with a politician like him is the kind of multi-pronged approach to social change that gays should embrace, or at least accept.

"One of the things that we collectively are fighting in today's political environment is the stereotype that all gays and lesbians are liberal/left/progressive/Democrats. I think most people with some sophistication recognize that we come in all shapes and all sizes, we're in all parts of the country from all political types."

"I personally think abortion rights are analogous to gay rights, but the reality is that some gay men are anti-choice. While I think those people need to be educated as to why [they feel] the government can't tell a man what he can do in making decisions about what to do with his own body, but it's okay to tell a woman what she should do. I think it's all relative."

The most recent polls indicate a neck-and-neck race. ▼

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Neo-Nazis Claim 'Gay Panic' in Texas Murder

United Press International

Murder charges were filed Friday, January 5 against two neo-Nazis who admitted attacking a pair of gay men they met in a Houston-area bar, killing one of them, sheriff's deputies said.

Half-brothers Daniel Christopher Bean, 19, and Ronald Henry Gauthier, 21, both of Columbia Falls, Montana, were held in jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond each.

Bean and Gauthier said they were in the Houston area to visit their mother. They claim to be members of a California-based neo-Nazi group, "the German Peace Corps." Authorities Friday were still checking to determine if that was true.

Deputy Tim Navarre arrested the two men as they ran from the scene, according to Sheriff Tommy Thomas. Navarre said he stopped the suspects because they were covered in blood.

While questioning them, Navarre said he heard a police report broadcast over his radio about a stabbing at Dolly's Place, a nearby bar. The deputy took the suspects back to the bar, where

several witnesses identified them.

Frank Mangione, 46, was stabbed more than 30 times and was pronounced dead at Columbia Katy Medical Center, deputies said. Kenneth Stern, a friend, said he and Mangione met Bean and Gauthier at the bar.

Deputies said the four men had left the bar briefly and gone for a ride together in Mangione's van before the attacks.

Both suspects told Navarre the attacks were prompted because Mangione or Stern had placed a hand on one of them during the ride.

After returning to the bar, Stern said one of the suspects had attacked him. Stern was badly beaten before other bar patrons helped him and stopped the fight.

Stern then went outside to check on his friend, who had stayed in the van outside. Stern found Mangione bleeding from numerous stab wounds.

Witnesses told detectives that before the attack, Bean and Gauthier made derogatory statements about gays and said they were going to attack a gay.

"This was definitely a hate crime," Thomas said. ▼



Danny Scouter
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I remember him wishing once that he could have been born with bigger shoulders and we had one of many beautiful and silly times walking around with the coat hangers still in our jackets. Danny, I hope you really knew that, in this life anyway, shoulders don't come any bigger than yours.

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Deadline for *all* obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Daniel W. Ross

June 17, 1945 - Jan. 3, 1996

Our beloved Danny died of AIDS complications January 3. Born in Kingsport, Tenn., he studied music from childhood and eventually architecture at North Carolina State University at Raleigh. After college he taught in public schools in New York City and Marin County, Calif.

In 1975 Danny bought a small farm on a mountaintop near Comptche, Calif., and soon goat cheese from Skyranch Road was served in the finest restaurants in Northern California. He was also tireless in his work with ACCESS and served on the AIDS support organization's board for seven years.

Danny's lush baritone graced the Mendocino Troubadours, Gloriana Opera Co. productions, Baroque Arts Ensemble of San Francisco, etc. He also directed the Gloriana Christmas Carolers and created the Comptche Village Singers.

Danny is survived by his mother, Helen; brother, Bob; and nephews, Graham and Andrew. A memorial celebration and potluck will be held Sunday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. at the Mendocino Presbyterian Church. For more information call Sam Waldman (707) 937-1424 or Rosalie Gjerde at (707) 964-4338.

Donations may be made to ACCESS, P.O. Box 633, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; The Billy Fund, P.O. Box 1572 Ukiah, CA 95482; the charity of your choice. ▼

Randall (Randy) Schell

Nov. 9, 1948 - Jan. 1, 1996

Randy left us, after a valiant struggle with AIDS, at home with family and friends. He was on disability leave from the Family Support Bureau, a division of SF's District Attorney's Office.

Randy was a co-founder of CUV (Community United Against Violence), and was politically active with various SF mayoral committees. He worked tirelessly for victims of gay domestic violence and received many awards from the Board of Supervisors. He also appeared on an edition of 20/20.

Being a spiritual seeker, Randy studied and partook of many faiths. He finally found comfort in Judaism and became a member of Congregation Sherith Israel synagogue.

Randy leaves behind his siblings, Kelly, Steve and Laura; his stepmother, Marlene; and his companion of eight years, Tim Meyers. A funeral was held at Temple Sherith Israel, and an inurnment/memorial service will be held at Grace Cathedral on Friday, Jan. 12, at 4 p.m. Randy asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the SF AIDS Foundation or Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF.

Shalom, my friend. Wait for me on the other side. We will be together again. Love always, Tim. ▼

Frank Michael Yhap

1959-1995

Frank Michael Yhap was born in the Republic of Panama and moved to San Francisco in 1979, where he died on December 27. He had become, by choice, an American citizen in 1986.

Frank and his longtime companion and lover of 15 years, Bruce Reader, were enthusiastic patrons of the opera, symphony, ballet and theater. Notwithstanding his American naturalization, Frank never abandoned his reverence for the monarchical institution and the political theories of the divine rights of kings.

He worked in various financial institutions, specializing in real estate. He was also a member of the Interchain International Association and of the San Francisco Knights Templar.

Frank was predeceased by Bruce on October 16 and by their beloved cocker spaniel, Sandy, on October 20. Afflicted by advancing HIV disease and crushed by grief over these losses, Frank chose to deliver himself from the progressing illness.

Frank is survived by Bruce's parents, George and Marybell, who considered him one of their own sons; by his best friend and caregiver, Jim Frazier; and by David and Lisa Scruggs of Somerville, Mass.

No memorial service will take place. ▼

Thomas F. French

Oct. 7, 1951 - Jan. 7, 1996

Having fought a courageous battle with AIDS, Tom passed away at his home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., surrounded by friends. Born and raised in upstate New York, Tom moved to San Francisco in the mid-1970s, and loved the beautiful California scenery, as well as the night life.

His deep love of life included a diverse circle of friends, both in the Bay Area and in his more recently adopted home of Ft. Lauderdale. There he enjoyed the beaches and warm tropical nights, while operating his own landscape and pool business.

Tom believed he would be reborn into a better world - and all his friends and family know he is there now. May peace be with you. A memorial service is being planned; call (415) 789-8316 for information. - Love, All your family and friends ▼

James Brian Mustard

1944 - 1996

Jim died peacefully at his Baltimore, Maryland home on January 2, surrounded by loving friends. Although he battled bone cancer for years, Jim died of AIDS. He wanted people to know that, as he was very passionate about the cause. Although not a permanent resident of San Francisco, he adopted our city as a second home and asked to be remembered to his friends here.

Jim had a distinguished career both as a journalist and an AIDS activist. He was the first openly gay television reporter in Baltimore, where he worked for more than 20 years at WBAL-TV.

In October, Jim traveled to our nation's capital, where he was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association. The NGLJA was a cause close to Jim's heart. He fought for many years to establish a chapter in Baltimore. Those efforts will continue on his behalf.

To his many friends, Jim was a hero. He sacrificed his privacy for the greater good, and for that, we thank him. We'll miss you, Jim. ▼

Stewart M. Surks

Stewart, 55, died at home in San Francisco. He is survived by his sisters, Arlene and Maxine, and was loved by his friends and family, who miss him dearly. Interment was in New York on Jan. 4. ▼



Sam Issa

Dec. 19, 1960 - Dec. 27, 1995

Sam Issa died at home in San Francisco. He was born in Kuwait City, Kuwait on December 19, 1960, departed this life on December 27, 1995 at the age of 35. Devoted son of Yaseen Issa and Badia Assad of Safta, Syria, and beloved brother of Faheema and Rydh Issa of Damascus, Faheem and Ghada Issa of Safta, Salam Issa of Homs, Syria and loving companion of Dewaine Edwards.

Syrian by birth, an American and San Franciscan by choice, Sam was a naturalized American citizen whose love for soccer was only exceeded by his love and care for animals.

May your soul find eternal peace Sam and one day soon, we'll be together again to continue our journey through destiny. We'll miss you Sam.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, January 13, 1996, at 12:00 p.m. at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

Gay, Lesbian Docs To Publish New Medical Journal

by Dennis Conkin

The world's first medical journal specifically devoted to lesbian and gay health needs is slated to roll off the press in early 1997, according to the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association.

The bi-national group of physicians and medical students has already raised \$50,000 toward the \$200,000 necessary to launch the publication, according to lesbian cardiologist Val Ulstead, MD.

"This is one of the most important projects ever undertaken for lesbian and gay health," Ulstead said.

"It's a project I'm really very excited about," said the group's executive director, Ben Schatz. "There's almost nothing in medical school training or in continuing medical education about lesbian and gay health issues or needs."

Schatz told the *Bay Area Reporter* that there has been no "reliable venue" for research into lesbian and gay health issues, and that absence creates a vicious cycle.

"Because there's not a venue for scholars and researchers to publish, people are not aware of the issues or needs. Once there is a venue and people are publishing, then research gets funded and that leads to funding of lesbian and gay health services," Schatz said.

The journal will be published by Plenum Publishing Corporation of New York, and will specialize in original clinical research, Schatz said.

However, topical essays and news in the field of lesbian and gay health will also be featured, and issues such as HIV, gynecology, mental illness, sexually transmitted diseases, oncology, and a broad range of other issues will be addressed.

According to Jocelyn White MD, an assistant professor of internal medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland and one of the *Journal's* two editors, the publication reflects the goals of the GLMA.

"It's a direct extension of GLMA's vision of education, promoting understanding of the health issues of the population we

serve. It promotes visibility and credibility and provides opportunities for GLMA members and other health professionals to reach their full potential academically and educationally," White said.

The second editor of the *Journal* is Mark Townsend, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Louisiana State University School of Medicine.

The *GLMA Journal* will publish quarterly, and be distributed to members and subscribers. ▼

For information and manuscript submission guidelines, contact White at the Department of Medicine, Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital, 1015 NW 22nd Avenue, Portland OR 97210, or e-mail whitejo@ohsu.edu

For donor information regarding the *GLMA Journal* contact GLMA Development Director Susan Stone at (415) 255-4547, or write 211 Church Street, San Francisco CA 94114.

OBITUARIES

Alvin J. Maria

April 27, 1956 - Jan. 1, 1996

As the sun rose on the first day of the new year, another angel was born. Alvin finished life's dance on New Year's Day, surrounded by his family and friends. The room was bathed with love, and the sounds of dance music by his favorite DJ filled the air...it was Alvin's last morning party.

Alvin's trademark was his gentle spirit, his calling card a kind heart, his goal a good time. He was one of life's rarest treasures, an unaffected man with a true and genuine soul. His sweet and caring disposition endeared him to all he met.

Alvin valued all beautiful things. He especially loved the beauty that is inherent in dance and music, particularly those moments when the mastery of the music would become his guide and pilot him across a dance floor sprinkled with good friends. He delighted in their smiling faces and in his knowledge of their good times.

Alvin leaves behind a loving family and a collection of friends whose lives he kindly touched. His spirit will live on in our memories and in the music that made him dance.

Let the music play! ▼

Frank F. Davis

March 19, 1949 - Jan. 4, 1996

After a brief stay at Davies Medical Center, Frank died on January 4 from AIDS complications. At the time of his death, Frank was sober in AA since September 7, 1983, and met many wonderful friends there.

Frank was born in Dallas and grew up in Corsicana, Texas. He studied law at the University of Texas at Austin and graduated cum laude. After practicing law for 12 years at the firm of Vinson & Elkins in Houston, he made the move to San Francisco in 1985. He was first community liaison and then executive director of 18th Street Services, a non-profit organization, during its phenomenal growth.

Frank is survived by his partner of ten years, Bob Welch; his parents, Hylan and Mary Frances Davis of Corsicana; many aunts, uncles and cousins; and many loving friends.

A celebration of Frank's life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 4 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco. Donations may be made in Frank's name to 18th Street Services/Operation Concern, 217 Church St., SF, CA 94114. ▼

Jimmy Mason

March 17, 1960 - Dec. 18, 1995

Jimmy died at California Pacific Medical Center. Jimmy Mason was my best friend for the past eight years, and I loved him with all my heart. For the last six months, we were roommates. I was with him till the end, till the wheels fell off.

Jimmy was loved by all. I never knew a person who was loved by so many. He would always greet you with a smile and would give you the shirt off his back.

Jimmy's survived by his parents, three brothers, his cousin Susan and his extended family. We all love and miss you dearly. Jimmy worked for Visiting Nurses of San Francisco. Memorial contributions can be made to Coming Home Hospice/SF.

Jimmy was cremated, and his ashes were sent back to his family in Minneapolis. Good-bye, my friend. - Bill K. ▼

David Michael Quigno

Oct. 10, 1959 - Nov. 25, 1995

David now rests in peace with his beloved Pablo. David will be missed by his many friends, who loved him for his wit, intelligence and free spirit.

David came to the Bay Area in 1983 and finally settled in San Francisco, a city he loved as his home. He was especially proud of his Native American heritage.

David is survived by his mother, Darlene; father, Joseph; sisters, Rhonda and Carla; brothers, Joey and John, all living in Michigan; and his "soul mate," Jake of San Carlos, Calif.

A celebration of life gathering will be held in January for the many friends who loved him. Memorial contributions should be made to the Native American Health Center in San Francisco. For further information call Jake at (415) 592-8432.

We miss you, David. Rest in peace. ▼

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HEALTH NEWS

Congressional Resolution Lets NIH AIDS Drug Trials Go On

by Mary Ann Swissler

Even the Republicans in Washington got the message that it wasn't in the country's best interest to halt all new AIDS drug trials while they played with the national budget. This week federal legislators voted to fully fund all new AIDS drug trials at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) scheduled for 1996, averting the possibility the trials would fall victim to the budget imbroglio.

The one-month old federal budget impasse had shut down all new admissions in 100 NIH AIDS clinical trials set to begin this month. A bipartisan resolution was passed Friday, June 5 appropriating \$11.9 billion to fund all NIH projects and activities. AIDS research will receive \$1.4 billion, \$73 million more than during 1995, from the Labor-Health & Human Services-Education Appropriation Subcommittee that funds AIDS research and prevention programs.

The resolution will also provide \$590 million for AIDS prevention activities funded by the CDC.

"The feeling was 'enough is enough,' and we needed to get some of these high-priority programs funded," said Steve Morin, aide to U.S. Representative Nancy

Pelosi, chair of the subcommittee. President Clinton signed the resolution on Saturday, he said.

If not for the resolution, an estimated 750 new patients each month throughout the U.S. would have been prevented from receiving experimental drugs and therapies, according to Dr. Jack Killen, Director of the AIDS division of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which funds the Clinical Trials Group.

Morin said the main reason the drug trials would have been halted is there would have been no way to pay the sub-contracted data analysis specialists.

Mark Jacobson, Principal Investigator at UCSF, commented that a halt to new trials would mean stopping research in general. Last week, before the last minute funding came through, he told the B.A.R., "We have had to stop communicating with our investigators. It may take a while for them to get back up to speed."

But he agreed that without funding, a shutdown of any new projects was best. Jacobson did

not blame the NIH administrators for halting the trials.

San Francisco AIDS activists had expressed concern over the shutdown of trials, but they also understood that the NIH wanted to ensure patient safety and study integrity. Virg Parks of ACT UP/Golden Gate told the B.A.R., "An entity as gigantic as the NIH can't run without secretaries. They are vital, you need those administrative people. The data center isn't processing any data, the operations office has completely shut down." She added that patient care would eventually have been adversely affected.

Another area directly affecting AIDS patients, the FDA drug approval process, was not in danger, according to Mattie Morris of the FDA District Office in Alameda, since that new budget was approved in October. "We will not get caught up in the budget process," she said.

However, Morin said that two other problem areas still exist: Ryan White Title I and HOPWA funds expire later this month. ▼

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FDA Clears d4T

PRNewswire

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company announced Thursday, January 4 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted full marketing clearance to Zerit (also known as d4T and stavudine), a nucleoside analogue used in the treatment of HIV.

Zerit was cleared for marketing under the FDA's accelerated approval program on June 27, 1994, based on an interim analysis of data from BMS Study 019 (a multi-center, randomized, double-blinded trial of ZERIT vs. continued AZT in 822 HIV-infected adults with CD4 cell counts between 50 and 500 cells/mm³, and at least 24 weeks of prior AZT treatment), and an analysis of 12,515 patients enrolled in a parallel track study, one of the largest of its kind ever conducted.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company submitted a supplemental New Drug Application to the FDA requesting that the indication for Zerit be expanded to reflect the final results from Study 019. Final analysis included a complete evaluation of clinical endpoints such as the incidence of opportunistic infections and survival.

"Bristol-Myers Squibb is

proud to be the developer and marketer of the first antiretroviral drug to receive full approval through the FDA's Accelerated Approval process," said Isadore M. Pike, MD, vice president at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

"We have honored our commitment under FDA accelerated approval regulations to verify the clinical benefit of Zerit," he added.

Ongoing Studies

"Our research efforts in developing Zerit to its fullest potential will not cease," said Laurie Smaldone, MD, vice president, Infectious Disease, Clinical Research at Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute. "There are numerous studies, ongoing and planned, to evaluate the role of Zerit in the treatment of all stages of HIV infection, and its role in the initial management of disease in combination with other antiretroviral agents."

"For example, potentially important data from a combination study utilizing Zerit will be presented at the upcoming retrovirus conference in January."

Zerit is indicated for the treatment of adults with HIV infection who have undergone prolonged treatment with AZT. ▼

HIV-Related TB at Vacaville

United Press International

An outbreak of tuberculosis at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, where four times the normal level of cases were diagnosed in 1995, has prompted prison officials to shut down admission to the facility's AIDS unit until the outbreak is controlled.

The AIDS unit at Vacaville is "probably going to reopen shortly," Department of Corrections spokesman Tip Kindel said Thursday, January 4. "They just wanted to do that as a precaution."

Twenty inmates, all of whom were HIV-positive, were diagnosed and treated in 1995 for active TB — four times more cases than the previous year.

"We are doing everything in our power to track down and treat this public health issue," said Corrections Deputy Director Kyle McKinsey. "We are working closely with public health officials at local, state, and national levels to stop the spread of the disease."

Ten of the active cases have been traced to exposure to two inmates carrying the disease. ▼

Meet the Press

Jeff Getty, the Bay Area PWA and AIDS activist who received an infusion of a baboon's bone marrow cells Dec. 14, addresses a small army of photographers and journalists upon his release from SF General Hospital Jan. 4. Despite the many prophets of doom, Getty told the B.A.R. that he's optimistic about the future and feels terrific.

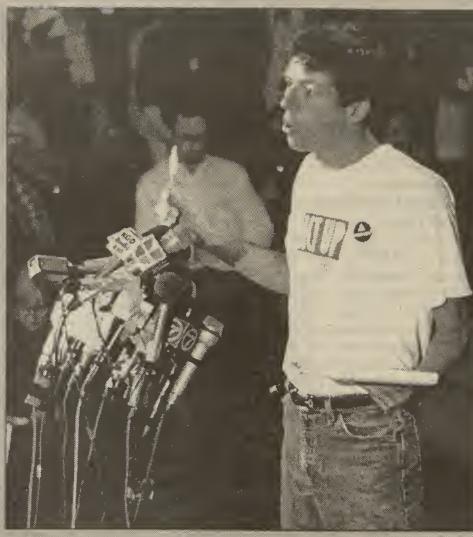


Photo: Gregory H. Fischer

First KS-Fighting Ointment To Enter Phase III Trials

PRNewswire

A California company announced Friday, January 5 it will launch a randomized pivotal Phase III clinical trial with the first topical therapy to be evaluated in Kaposi's sarcoma (KS).

Allergan Ligand Retinoid Therapeutics, Inc. of San Diego presented interim data to the Food and Drug Administration in late November on its product "ALRT1057 Topical" (9-cis-retinoic acid), and agreement was reached to proceed with the Phase III pivotal trial.

KS is a tumor first described by the Austro-Hungarian dermatologist Moritz Kaposi. It was initially associated with certain ethnic groups, but the populations at risk have broadened significantly with the advent of the AIDS epidemic. HIV-induced immunological deficiency predisposes to a variety of opportunistic infections and neoplastic disorders.

KS is present in approximately 20% of AIDS patients. Approximately 25,000 patients are newly diagnosed with AIDS-related KS each year in the United States. Eventually, almost all patients with AIDS-related KS develop widespread sites of disease, with limited mucocutaneous lesions proceeding to more generalized skin disease and with lymph node, gastrointestinal, pulmonary, and other organ involvement.

The controlled Phase I/II trial was designed to assess the safety and efficacy of two concentrations of ALRT1057 topical gel, applied two to four times daily to KS lesions in HIV-positive patients who have biopsy-proven KS, and are not using concomitant KS therapy. Representative KS lesions were designated for ALRT1057 treatment or as untreated controls on the basis of similar characteristics.

Control untreated lesions were monitored untreated for at least eight weeks. The study design specified four weeks of active therapy, which could be continued in four-week increments if the treatment was judged by the investigator to be of clinical benefit to the patient with no unacceptable toxicity. Evaluations of safety and efficacy were made at four-

week intervals throughout the study.

Thirty percent 'partial' response

Interim results of those trials, analyzed on a per patient basis, indicate ALRT1057 induced a response – as defined by AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) criteria, as applied to topical therapy – in 30 percent of 43 patients with AIDS-related KS evaluated to date. This interim assessment supports results of an earlier interim assessment, reported in September 1995.

Thirteen of the 43 patients (30%) met at least one ACTG criterion for partial response for the group of treated index lesions, compared to four of the 43 patients (9%) for the group of untreated control lesions. No patient had an ACTG complete response (in which all treated index lesions completely resolved); however, 4.5% of the treated index lesions had a complete clinical response, and no untreated control lesion showed a complete clinical response.

Eleven of 43 patients (26%) met ACTG partial response criteria, with a complete flattening of at least 50% of the raised treated index lesions, compared to four of 43 patients (9%) for control untreated lesions.

Three of the 43 patients (7%) met ACTG partial response criteria with a 50% or greater reduction in the sum of the areas of all treated index lesions, compared to none of the 43 patients for the control lesions.

"We continue to be pleased with the results emerging from ongoing Phase II trials. On the basis of these results, we believe the drug should be studied in a randomized, blinded, Phase III pivotal trial, and are now proceeding to do so," ALRT President Marvin E. Rosenthal, Ph.D. said.

A protocol for an oral version of ALRT1057 in KS has been accepted by the newly formed AIDS-Related Malignancy Consortium, under the sponsorship of the National Cancer Institute. Patient accrual under this protocol is expected in early 1996. In addition, ALRT1057 Oral will be eval-

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HIV+? How To Get The Care You Need

by Bill Thorne
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers' Pool

Having AIDS or HIV creates additional obstacles for survival and quality of life in an already difficult world. How one chooses to deal with the medical aspects of HIV infection often dictates the quality and perhaps length of life. Patients should develop a proactive approach to self-care and self-advocacy.

ACT UP/Golden Gate has received thousands of calls over the years from patients requesting help in receiving proper care, getting specific drugs and dealing with bureaucracies such as insurance companies, HMOs and government agencies. ACT UP has assisted patients when we could. It has become very clear to us that our society has no "training program" in how to deal with a difficult situation such as HIV infection. ACT UP/Golden Gate is not an individual advocacy organization, instead we want patients to learn to advocate for themselves. Often self advocacy translates into a larger community benefit.

Part I: The Tools of the Trade

HIV-infected individuals should acknowledge their situation as early as possible. The first step is psychologically accepting the situation. This may require professional or peer-support help of some kind. The person infected who cannot "deal" with the situation psychosocially is profoundly handicapped in all other aspects of living with HIV.

Next patients must self-advocate. Two useful books are *HIV-Working the System* by Robert A. Rimer and Michael A. Connelly and *Nutrition and HIV: A New Model for Treatment* by Dr. Mary Romeyne. Browse the local bookstore's HIV or Health Section to see which books are best. Education must continue on a more regular basis due to constantly changing treatments and prophylaxis.

Project Inform has regular town meetings, publications, and a hotline that can be reached at (415) 558-8669.

AIDS Treatment News by John James, (415) 255-0588, and *BETA (The Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS)*, (415) 487-8064 are excellent resources. Healing Alternatives Foundation, the local AIDS Buyers Club, has an excellent resource library and librarian. Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases (WORLD), (510) 658-6930, is an excellent resource for HIV+ women. OUTline is a low cost, easy to use, on-line computer service for people with HIV. OUT-

through a true partnership between physician and patient. The physician must be aware of the latest developments in HIV care and be able to educate the patient about available clinical trials. Patients know their situation best and must learn to communicate that situation to the doctor. It is difficult to deal with switching doctors during a medical crisis, therefore a partnership should be developed early. Sometimes conflicts will develop between even the most cooperative of doctors and patients. This is a normal part of any human interaction, and neither party should be afraid of disagreement. The ability to resolve differences to the satisfaction of both parties is crucial. If a certain patient/doctor arrangement cannot do this, it is the patient's responsibility to dissolve it and start interviewing new doctors.

Part II: Getting the Job Done

Unfortunately it is not enough to just have the tools available. The patient must now learn how to use the tools in the most efficient manner possible. Self-empowerment is the key to getting what you need. It is necessary for patients to be confident of their ability to determine which treatments and trials are best and able to advocate for their own best interests. This degree of self-confidence doesn't come easy. The interests of the drug company, researchers, regulators and third party reimbursers do not always intersect with the best approach for patients. Patients must learn to recognize each player's interests and objectives and push for the best treatment for themselves – even when all other parties refuse to cooperate. Multiple creative approaches may be needed to attain the care the patients want.

ACT UP/Golden Gate has formed the Self Advocacy Working Group. This group will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. The first meeting will be next Tuesday, January 16th. If you or someone you care about needs to learn the skills to get the best care possible or are experiencing a problem getting a particular therapy please join us. ACT UP/Golden Gate's regular meetings are Treatment Issues every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. and General Body Meetings every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 592b Castro St. ACT UP/Golden Gate is not affiliated with ACT UP/San Francisco. ▼

"The AIDS epidemic has taught us that the best approach to managing HIV is through a true partnership between physician and patient."

line includes a lot of up-to-date treatment information, including some of the above, and can be reached at (415) 554-0555.

Patients must make many important decisions. Securing a health insurance plan early on is essential to good care. Knowledge of how the plan works is important to receive the best care, whether it be through public programs such as Medical and Medicare or through an HMO or insurance company. Knowing the avenues of appeal available if a dispute arises is also important. Some companies have Patient Relations or Customer Service Departments and the Department of Insurance, (800) 927-4357 and the Department of Corporations, (415) 557-3787 (for HMOs), are available to all California residents. AIDS Benefits Counselors on Castro Street, (415) 558-9845, is a good place to start to learn how to educate yourself regarding health, disability, life and long term disability insurance.

Choosing a primary care provider is another equally important area. Traditionally patients with life-threatening illnesses have conceded decision-making to their doctors. The AIDS epidemic has taught us that in fact the best approach to managing HIV is

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Senator Barbara Boxer (415) 403-0100
Senator Dianne Feinstein (415) 249-4777

Tell them it is unacceptable to limit distribution of information about AIDS prevention and treatment. The proposed legislation must be changed or amended to reflect this.

Calorie Conscious

by Michael C. Botkin

Last week I finally began Human Growth Hormone. The physician's assistant gave me about \$2,100 worth of the drug (two weeks supply), showed me how to shoot it up, and gave me advice on how to get the most out of this new miracle treatment. "You'll need to exercise," he said. "Mostly resistance-type, like weightlifting. That will develop muscles without burning off too much energy. And you'll have to eat a lot; you should try for 6,000 calories a day."

This threw me for a loop. I knew that I had to eat as much as possible, that I wasn't absorbing nutrition at the same rate as healthy people, but I'd never had an actual figure of calories-per-day to shoot for. I was a bit dismayed at just how high the target figure was.

How much is 6,000 calories per day? I tried to break it down into actual food. A "Special K" breakfast, advertised on cereal boxes, boasts that it has only 400 or so calories (from a bowl of cereal, milk, a glass of juice, and a piece of toast). I began to calculate a "calorie packer's breakfast": six scrambled eggs, waffles with butter and syrup, six rashers of bacon, four sausage links, toast with jam, coffee with milk and sugar. This barely hits 1,500 calories. I added a chocolate milk shake, which boosted it up to 2,000.

Aside from the looks I would get if I ordered such a breakfast, there's the little detail that I could never actually manage to pack down more than a fraction of it. My appetite is weak, even with the best appetite stimulants money and medical science can provide. Some of this may be caused by the disease. Some is certainly caused by the drugs I take, as most of them warn of nausea as a side effect. In fact, it's something of a miracle that I can digest any food at all, given the number of antibiotics I'm on.

So I'm in this strange situation of having a mandate to stuff myself as shamelessly as possible and paradoxically finding that virtually nothing appeals to me.

Collateral Damage

I left the doctor's office with the phrase "6,000 calories" echoing in my mind. Now I had a concrete goal to reach for, and it seemed hopelessly out of my grasp. Up until that moment I'd pushed myself to eat, but not real hard. If I managed to get in three solid meals a day, I was very proud of myself. Now I realized that this mediocre accomplishment fell far short of what I needed. But I was at a loss as to how to get in the 6,000-calorie ballpark.

I could try drinking more Advera. I currently drink about four a day. Each Advera has about 300 calories. So to get my total daily calorie intake from Advera, I would have to drink 20 cans a day! This simply isn't feasible; I have trouble choking down four of them. Besides, activists have called for a boycott of Ensur and Advera. While I haven't been able to join in, I certainly don't want to start megadosing on the stuff, even if I could stomach it.

Most frustrating are my lack of capacity and the speed with which I tire of any given dish. Sitting down and packing in a huge meal just isn't possible for me anymore. After about half an entree, I'm full. And my taste buds, distorted

by my dozens of drugs, have grown quirky. Something which I genuinely crave often, after a few bites, loses its savor.

I've learned to work around these limits. I try to graze my way through the day, constantly eating smallish snacks. And I use my partner as an all-round clean-up



Breakfast of champions: Columnist and calorie-packer Michael Botkin gets ready to dive into a box of Godiva chocolates.

crew; anything I can't finish, I pass on to him. This does tend to lead to "collateral damage," where my effort to gain weight mostly adds the poundage to my partner.

For eating out I've learned to avoid traditional American restaurants, where a huge plate of food is deposited in front of you. I prefer family-style dining, such as Chinese, where a wide assortment of food is put out for everyone to help themselves. This avoids the public embarrassment of toying ineffectually with a huge entree and allows you to selectively poach whatever strikes your fancy. Tapas joints and dim-sum parlors are good options for the same reason.

Cold Dumplings

Even finding foods that interest me enough that I'm willing to try eating them has become a challenge. I'm not sure how my "taste perversions" (the official term for the phenomenon) work, but some foods just taste wrong.

Ironically, the more expensive food is the likelier it is to avoid this problem. I've tried to find some rational explanation for this. Perhaps, I conjecture, the use of additives and cheap flavoring agents is what makes cheaper food vulnerable to taste distortion. My partner just attributes it to the "Prince and the pea" factor, and suspects that my taste buds react as much to the price tag of food as they do to flavor.

That's possible, too, I suppose, but I really do think that the best restaurants pay a lot more attention to getting pure, clear flavors across and that this explains the ability of pricey food to get past the perversions. Whatever the reason, the net result is that I have to pay more for the food. I used to be quite fond of any number of places that served mountains of good food cheap, and now I have very little use for them. There's just no way I can eat more than four or five bites of a burrito, however good it is.

Sometimes I wonder if this isn't a karmic payback for being a pig in a previous life. Perhaps I was so greedy that to teach me a lesson I was reincarnated in this bizarre avatar, where I must pig out to save my life and find I can't. Or maybe it's a karmic reward for being frugal in a previous life.

Only food (and maybe sex) can confabulate good and bad so easily. I once reflected that Heaven must be like the best table at Yank Sing, my favorite dim-sum place. The best table is the one right by the door to the kitchen, so that you get first crack at every tray that goes out. A little further reflection led me to the conclusion that Hell would also be like a table at Yank Sing, but one of the worst tables, far distant on the second floor in a cul-de-sac that only gets the most occasional visits from the nearly empty carts, anxious to dump their last, cold dumplings.

Oh, how I long to fast, to avoid eating long enough to actually feel hunger again! But hunger is a luxury I cannot afford. I must pack in the calories every waking moment, if I can. If you see me in public, don't be offended if I don't return your hail: I'm probably eating something, and it's not polite to talk with your mouth full. I'll be the one morosely munching a brownie and solemnly counting the calories as I force them past my lips: "Ten calories" (gulp), "20 calories" (chew, swallow), "30 calories" (burp).

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 201248
The following person(s) are doing business as NIKO NIKO TRAVEL, 1169 Market Street, #291, San Francisco, CA 94103; MIKAKO MATSUO, 1169 Market Street, #291, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan 5, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed MIKAKO MATSUO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Jan 05, 1996.

Jan 11, 18, 25, 1996, Feb 1, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 201224
The following person(s) are doing business as WASH TIME, 2001 Balboa Street, San Francisco, CA 94121; JOHN S. KRAUS, 645 Height Street, #10, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed JOHN S. KRAUS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Jan 05, 1996.

Jan 11, 18, 25, 1996, Feb 1, 1996.

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 974687

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO in the matter of the application of JUDITH ANN VIDERS for change of name. The application of JUDITH ANN VIDERS for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that JUDITH ANN VIDERS has filed an application proposing the name to be change to JUDY GOLDEN. Now, therefore, it is ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said cause do appear before the Court in Department X-4 on the 1st day of February, 1996, at 9:00 o'clock am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the THE BAY AREA REPORTER a newspaper of general circulation, printed in English, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 15th day of December, 1995.

Dec 28, 1995 Jan 4, 11, 18, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 200917
The following person(s) are doing business as NEW CHIN RESTAURANT, 272 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA 94107; BUU TANG DU, 255 Huntington Ave, San Bruno, CA 94066. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed BUU TANG DU. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Dec. 21, 1995.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PEOPLE AND PERSONALS

VOL. XXVI NO. 2 January 11, 1996



Lyle Leverich

Photo: Hem Arrow

Lyle Leverich's 'Tom:
The Unknown
Tennessee Williams'

A PORTRAIT OF THE PLAYWRIGHT AS A YOUNG MAN

by Tavo Amador

The acclaim that is greeting *Tom: The Unknown Tennessee Williams* (Crown, \$35), Lyle Leverich's biography of the famed American dramatist, is gratifying to the first-time author, "but it really belongs to Tennessee, not to me," he insists, referring to the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Suddenly, Last Summer*, *The Rose Tattoo* and *Night of the Iguana*.

Williams, who died in 1983 and whom critic John Lahr dubbed "America's greatest playwright," named Leverich his authorized biographer and afforded him access to previously unpublished journals and considerable family memorabilia housed at the University of Texas in Austin. But Leverich, a former San Francisco theatrical producer, did not start out to write a biography of Williams and did not anticipate how rocky the road to publication would be. After spending seven years writing and researching the book, the first of two on Williams, he ran into an unforeseeable obstacle to publication

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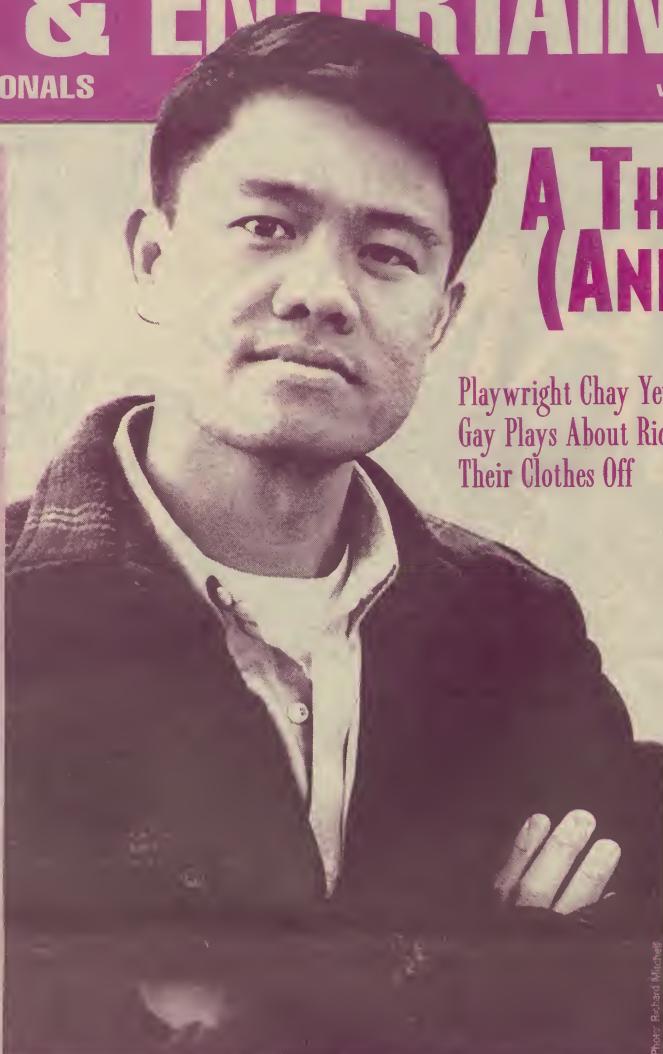


Photo: Richard Mitchell

A THINKING (AND FEELING) REED

Playwright Chay Yew Is Tired of
Gay Plays About Rich White Men Who Take
Their Clothes Off

by Chad Jones

Anyone who remembers Theatre Rhinoceros's production of gay playwright Chay Yew's *Porcelain* several years ago will recall a stark, beautifully poetic, emotionally gripping drama that explored issues of sexuality and race with candor and lean efficiency. Well, the 30-year-old Yew has been busy in the intervening years and has come back to San Francisco for a spell to work on the Asian American Theater Company production of his latest play, *A Language of Their Own*, which opened last week for a month-long run.

Yew brought *Porcelain* to San Francisco from the Royal Court Theatre in London in 1993, where it won the London Fringe Award for Best Play, thus establishing Yew as one of the preeminent gay playwrights of his generation. Living up to his reputation, Yew's next work was born of two one-act plays, *Learning Chinese* and *Broken English*. The plays were workshopped in Los Angeles at the Mark Taper Forum's Asian American Friends Reading Series in 1993. The one-acts were combined, and the full-length work that became *A Language of Their Own* premiered at the New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater last spring, where

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'I WANTED HIM!'

Landmark Homo Flick's Plea
of Tolerance Is Important,
But Not All That It Seems

by David Ehrenstein

There's something both odd and appropriate about using a screening of *Victim* as a benefit for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (Thursday, January 18 at the Castro). The odd part is that those most likely to profit from the organization's efforts at monitoring human rights violations against sexual minorities worldwide have more pressing concerns than the social ostracism depicted in this British melodrama about a blackmail ring preying on gay men. On the other hand, *Victim* is an ideal choice for those most likely to buy a ticket to this event. For though it was made 35 years ago, the world it depicts — of closets,

Continued on page 38

Dirk Bogarde in *Victim*

INTERVIEW

Mr. Zamora:
more than
just a
pretty face

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by Tara Bastille, Pithy Galore, Justin Zane and Polly Popular

Desmond Barrit's Bottom is so good he's bringing it all the way from London to show it off in San Francisco. Barrit even has the distinction of having won major awards for his Bottom. Who among us can claim the same? The Royal Shakespeare Company's much-celebrated and, by all accounts, mercifully fresh production of the Bard's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which the corpulent and comedically incisive Barrit portrays Nick Bottom the weaver, opened at the Golden Gate Theatre earlier this week. Barrit's Bottom is there — transformation into ass and all — for all of Northern California to ogle. Barrit has been playing the literary world's most famous Bottom (discounting, of course, *Oscar Wilde* and *Marcel Proust*) for "most of my life." Actually, the distinguished British actor has been performing in the RSC production for two years and, after stints here and in Chicago, will perform it in New York (never enough Bottoms on Broadway, as they say).



Big Bottom Desmond Barrit

Welsh-born and successful, the 51-year-old Barrit says he was sorry he gave up his job as an accountant to become an actor for the first of several lean years. But for the last 12, he maintains, things have been good. "I'm overweight," he confesses. "But it's worked in my favor. There aren't many fat actors around. Since I let myself go to seed, I've become hot." Hot indeed. "So many people see this show and go home talking about Des Barrit's Bottom," the actor says, "that I'm considering changing my name to Fanny."

While we're discussing talented British actors, one of our stalwart moles managed to weasel his way into the Variety Club last Friday to meet Sir Ian McKellan at a VIP screening and reception honoring the celebrated gay actor and his latest film, *Richard III*. McKellan, looking as dapper as ever, was characteristically charming to everyone in attendance, even to our annoying friend, an inveterate star-fucker if ever there was one. Naturally, a noticeable gay presence was on hand, the stand-outs being those intrepid Mistresses of Ceremony Armitstead Maupin and Terry Anderson. Before the latter duo squared Sir Ian — and that is the way he prefers to be addressed — off to a private party at Stars, McKellan was overheard telling a reporter that "If I had to spend a weekend away from home, the one place I'd want to be is San Francisco." We love you too, Sir Ian. *Richard III* opens locally January 19.

Filmmaker Frances Reid's *Skin Deep*, a documentary about college students confronting racism, gets its SF premiere next week as part of what the Film Arts Foundation calls "An Alternative Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration." Perhaps we're missing the concept, but since MLK was a pro-



The youthful subjects of Frances Reid's *Skin Deep*.

finally catching on to the drawing power of controversial lesbo subject matter.

Q uote of the Month: "Surely there's cause for worry when a man counts Jim Nabors, Dom DeLuise and Charles Nelson Reilly among his closest friends." — James Wolcott in his *New Yorker* review of Loni Anderson's recently published memoir, *My Life In High Heels*. Who is he referring to? Miss Burt Reynolds, of course.

F abulous Fifties: Bemoaning the end of baby boomer cultural dominance, *The New York Times* recently devoted major features to "Who Will Turn 50 in 1996?" Don't forget to send a card to John Waters on April 22. The most interesting personalities in the story were on the list of "Who Would Have Been 50." They included gay German filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder (d. 1982), the "most beautiful woman in the world," Divine (d. 1988), controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (d. 1989), and Queen of the world, Freddie Mercury (d. 1991).

F inally, from Miss Mary-ment herself, John E. Karr, comes this sordid item: A Colombian man underwent an operation last week to rid himself of a three-day-long erection. The story, which surfaced first in Bogota's *El Tiempo* (how Karr got wind of this is beyond us), said that 22-year-old Ramon's erection began at dawn on Monday and by Wednesday it had not gone away. "The hard-on was caused by a sudden drop in the flow of oxygen to Ramon's penis — a condition called priapism," offered Karr, an unqualified authority on dick afflictions. "Here's the best part," the Sordid One said, foaming at the mouth. "There's a 55 percent chance that Ramon's problem will occur again. I hope next time we get pictures." ▼

gressive, to offer an "alternative" celebration actually sounds a bit ominous to us. Semantics aside, Reid's film has gotten some great press in its debuts elsewhere. Reid says she produced *Skin Deep*, which features four students from three universities (including Cal Berkeley), because she wanted to know why race was still such a hot topic on campuses around the nation. *Skin Deep* plays the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St., on Jan. 15 at 7:30.

A pal of Reid's called us last week to point out something curious. Although fellow SF film-making friends Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman made the prestigious Out There 50 as a couple, *Deborah "The Complaining But Dutiful Daughter" Hoffman*, Reid's longtime partner, made the cut but Reid didn't. "But Frances is not bitter," the friend assures us — which is more than we can say for some people in town, namely that theatrical impresario who slipped off the list this year (as we said last month, honey, this is a quite a "what-have-you-done-for-me-lately kind of town").

S peaking of the Out There 50 list, did you notice how several people on our reader's survey showed up on the *Examiner's* "reasons to stay in SF list"? We had to laugh, though, for we designed our survey so that it would avoid the sort of editorial *faux pas* the *Ex* stumbled into when it began listing important persons, namely Michael Tilson Thomas (#9), after things like the new gift store at SFMOMA (#8) and Beach Blanket Bingo (#1) as reasons to stick around. We can only hope MTT is out of town and that no one will fix him with the news that he is less important than "Fog Dome snowballs" and blandishing kitschentertainments.

In recent weeks we've assiduously reported on all the homo flicks premiering at next week's Sundance Film Festival (perhaps the gayest on record), *The Celluloid Closet*, *Frisk*, *Bound*, and *Barbara Hammer's Tender Fictions*, etc. One flick we forgot to mention is *Julia Dyer's Late Bloomers*, a lesbian love story about a married Midwestern woman who falls for the female gym teacher at the school where she works. We certainly didn't intend to drop this one from our list, though what sounds like *Personal Best* crossed with *Desert Hearts* was enough to make us do so.

A little closer to home, lesbian and gay cinema gets a boost next week with Film 120C "Lesbian and Gay Film History" gets under way at City College. This time around the course is being taught by gay San Francisco filmmaker Michael Wallin, creator of *The Place Between Our Bodies*, the award-winning *Decodings*, and the recently completed *Black Sheep Boy*. Wallin is substituting for 120C's longtime instructor and originator Daniel Mangin, who is taking a leave of absence to pursue a research project. (The fall class,

120D, will be taught by local filmmaker Alfonso Moret.)

Wallin's course kicks off with screenings of *Takehiro Nakajima's* 1993 breakthrough Japanese feature, *Okoge*. Other highlights include the classic early lesbian drama *Maedchen In Uniform* (1931), *Fassbinder's Fox and His Friends*, *Pedro Almodovar's Law of Desire*, *John Waters' Female Trouble*, in addition to such classic experimental queer shorts as *Fireworks*, *Scorpio Rising* and *Flaming Creatures*. A special field trip to the Castro to see the long-awaited premiere of *The Celluloid Closet* is also in the works. Evening sections of Film 120C are offered Wednesday or Thursday nights, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Everett Middle School, Room 225. Cost is \$49 for the semester (3 units). Classes begin Thursday, January 18 (first evening section) or Wednesday, January 24 (afternoon and evening sections). Call 826-1426 for information.

Magnificent Obsession: We were chastised recently for writing wildly speculative things about a certain luscious, dark-eyed, dark-haired actor whose sexuality has always been something of a mystery. (Hint: the title of his breakthrough film includes the five-letter name of a state in the U.S.). We apologize if our wishful thinking about Mr. Delicious' sexuality has ever resulted in tawdry prose, but we can't resist fantasizing about the Beautiful One and how someday he'll be caught in a queer clinch. Thus, we were all ears one night last week when a pathetic Hollywood Queen made a tearful midnight call to Out There to tell us he'd just seen The Grunge Glory at the home of a well-known Tri-Star producer holding hands with an attractive African-American man. "Was it his bodyguard," we asked, "or perhaps a blind man looking for someone to show him the way?" We don't know for sure, but we'd kill to see the pictures.

Gay News is Good News: One of our favorite movie magazines is the super queer-friendly *Entertainment Weekly*. EW announced recently that its September 8 cover story, "The Gay '90s," about gays and lesbians in the entertainment industry, was their best-selling newsstand issue ever (115,000 copies sold).

Here are a few tidbits from recent EW issues for you to use as idle chatter around the office water cooler. Everyone knows how queer-positive Matt Groening's *The Simpsons* is, but did you know that Bart Simpson's character is voiced by a woman? That famous cool kid voice really belongs to 34-year-old Nancy Cartwright. And did you say you were wondering about the casting for the next *Batman* sequel, set for 1997? Here's some good rumors (at this point only rumors): Alicia Silverstone as Batgirl, Julia Roberts or Demi Moore as Poison Ivy, Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman, and our favorite, Patrick Stewart as Mr. Freeze.

EW also gave us some nice

coverage of the American Family Association's (AFA) Disney boycott.

Benjamin Svetkey's December 15 article (nicely illustrated with a pair of embracing ear-pierced Mickeys, and a big rainbow flag atop the Magic Kingdom) pokes fun at the Christian conservatives, and explains how Disney's progressive policies (they extend health benefits to gay employees' partners and host a Gay Day at Florida's Disney World) have gotten them in trouble with the AFA. The AFA also claims to have discovered subliminal pornography in *The Little Mermaid* and *The Lion King*. Disney execs seem to be taking the whole thing with a grain of salt, "I'm sure they're going to find some deep message that Buzz and Woody are gay. I'm sure it's just a matter of time."

With Friends Like These: Don't forget to tune in to NBC's yuppie mega-hit sitcom *Friends* on Thursday, January 18 for the lesbian wedding episode. In an interesting move, Diet Coke's new \$30 million advertising campaign (consumers can collect game pieces from packages of Diet Coke and then watch the commercials during the show to win prizes) will run January 11, 18, 25, and after the Super Bowl on January 28. Looks like they're

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FILM

Fassbinder's *Martha* Among Films from Germany and Switzerland

Deutsche Larks

by Matthew Kennedy

The Castro Theatre has some tasty treats coming up with Berlin and Beyond, a week-long celebration of new cinema from Germany and Switzerland. The films in this festival, which begins January 11, come from filmmakers whose work is rarely seen State-side but which often plays the leading festivals of Europe. Curated by the Goethe-Institut, Berlin and Beyond is an excellent place to start shopping for young talent from Europe.

This festival takes one significant deviation from its mission of showcasing contemporary filmmakers. *Martha* has many people excited, since the 1973 film by the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder has been "re-discovered" after drifting in legal oblivion for 23 years. The film was entangled in legal disputes involving alleged plagiarism of Cornell Woolrich's "For the Rest of Her Life." The film is predictably disturbing and occasionally ludicrous. It begins as a black comedy with Martha in Rome with her domineering father. He drops dead on the Spanish Steps and she wails about her stolen purse. Her drunken mother is no help, and soon Martha is mesmerized by a strong, sullen and sadistic man. They get married, and so goes the bitter comedy of the film's first half hour. The relationship veers into madness and strict rules that leave Martha terrified for her life. Fassbinder, to his credit, avoids clichés and creates some serious tension amidst blooming flowers and sunny

A black and white portrait of a woman with dark, wavy hair and heavy makeup, looking slightly to the left. She is wearing a dark jacket over a white collared shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

Margit Carstensen in Fassbinder's *Martha*.

Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren

facts of sexual biology and psychological torture. The title character becomes a pitiable creature, unable and unwilling to break free from controlling men. Her sacrifices and compromises in marriage extend way beyond heroics and charge headlong into self-destruction.

As Fassbinder said in an essay included in the press materials, "Most men simply do not know

Hell Is Other People

by Erin Blackwell

Unfortunately for all of us, the lessons of the Spanish Inquisition are increasing in relevance. The Catholics had nothing to envy the Nazis when it came to institutionalizing ruthless control over everybody else's hearts, minds and wallets. *I, The Worst of All* — a great film with a lousy title — is the portrait of a 17th-century Spaniard whose genius challenged the System's endemic contempt for individual freedom.

Apart from its right-on analysis of wrong-headed social structures, Argentinian director María Luisa Bemberg's biopic offers us the classiest in a long (recent) line of lesbian romance films. Juana Inez de la Cruz (Assumpta Serna, right), one of the greatest poets of the Golden Age, has entered a Mexican convent as the only way to escape marriage and live for her muse. Enter Dominique Sanda, as the Viceroy of Mexico — a powerful ally, way-cool femme and heavily-brocaded object of a series of impassioned love poems.

Ultimately, the haven Sister Juana sought in Mother Church becomes the prison of the patriarchal state and she is stripped, by increments, of every moral, intellectual and emotional support. Finally, she agrees to renounce her worldly self, signing a confession in her own blood with the phrase "I, The Worst of All." Here, the film achieves stalemate, the conundrum of the free spirit trapped in a corrupt cult resisting any facile cinematic solution.

Despite, or because of its final unreconciled paradox, this is a brilliant film. With amazing restraint and intelligence, Bemberg has rendered the eternal problem of the aspiring Self done-in by the oppressive Group. Don't let the costumes fool you. Whatever it calls itself, some form of the Inquisition is always with us. ▼

I, The Worst of All opens January 12 at the Embarcadero Cinemas, 1 Embarcadero in San Francisco. Call 352-0810 for information.



how to oppress women the way women would like to be oppressed." He takes on the provocative idea of female enslavement as a state of desire, but there is little in Martha's behavior that makes her sympathetic. Most often she appears downright stupid. Whether this is because of her own inadequacies or the numbing realities of male domination is not entirely clear.

Martha evokes those classic wife-in-peril-by-psycho-husband tales such as *Sorry, Wrong Number*, *Suspicion* and *Gaslight*. Martha has confused love with oppression and desire with acceptance. She has an aching need to please her man. By film's end, "Martha is no longer capable of surviving on her own and has thus achieved exactly what she wanted," said Fassbinder. "The film tells the story of what it would take to make this woman happy."

Short on irony, *Martha* veers

into the putrid world of misogyny. What's missing in Fassbinder's thesis is any recognition that men are setting the rules, playing the game and speaking on behalf of women and women's desires. With the deck so loaded, of course there will be men, and male filmmakers, who claim women want to be controlled. It's time to blame the victim. What makes this message different from the absurd conceit that women want to be raped? In a world already full of heterosexual violence, it is a startling and combustible message coming from the homosexual Fassbinder.

A filmmaker to watch

Everything else in Berlin and Beyond comes from filmmakers very much alive. *Shadows of Fear*, made in 1992, is the second feature of 34-year-old Turkish director Konstantin Schmidt. It has subtle and satisfying power. A woman seeking political asylum

in Berlin does not speak, has no papers and is virtually catatonic. Who is she and where did she come from? Mohammed, a Turk and fellow refugee, sees into her haunted eyes and tries to help. A young ward doctor in a psychiatric clinic also tries to reach her with middling success, and a Nurse Ratched wanna-be does more damage than good.

Outside Time is set in an East German town so insignificant that the train doesn't stop there anymore. We see Sophie, the train station manager, cope with unemployment and a mother and brother who are a bit too cozy with each other. Along comes Sergei, a Russian deserter, to upset the family dynamics and unleash homoerotic desires from the aforementioned brother. Director Andreas Kleinert makes good use of bleak

vistas, and the leading players are attractive, but the whole affair makes for rough slogging.

Advance buzz on Joseph Vilsmaier's *Schlafes Bruder* (*Brother of Sleep*) is very good, a beautifully photographed epic tragedy. Ditto *Talk of the Town*, a comedy about a radio talk-show host who can't get her love life on track.

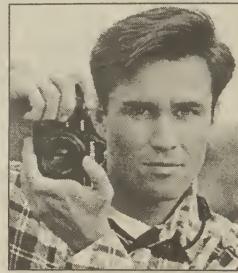
Other titles in Berlin and Beyond include *Deadly Maria*, a *Billy Liar*-esque escapist fantasy, *Ludwig 1881*, which features everyone's favorite mad king of Bavaria, and *The Deathmaker*, an updated treatment of the child murders first seen in Fritz Lang's 1931 film, *M*. ▼

Berlin and Beyond runs January 11 - 17 at the Castro.



Ben Becker in Joseph Vilsmaier's *Schlafes Bruder* (*Brother of Sleep*).

Photo: Senator Film/Pietro Domeneghi



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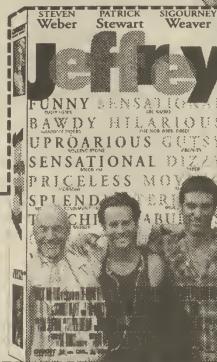
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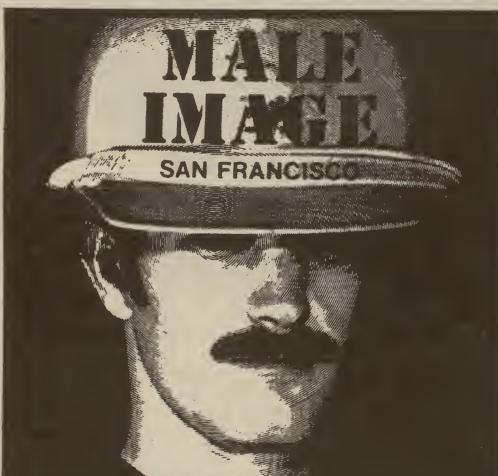
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A Language of Their Own Twisted Tongues

by Chad Jones

By dissecting the unique language lovers use to express their love, pronounce their hatred and avoid communication altogether, playwright Chay Yew turns the standard relationship clichés into beautifully crafted, emotionally charged theatrical poetry. His new play, *A Language of Their Own*, opened last week to kick off of the Asian American Theater Company's 23rd season.

A familiar tale simply, but artfully told, this *Language* is spoken primarily by Oscar and Ming, lovers of four years at the precipice of their imminent breakup. Oscar, an emotionally restrained Chinese man, has just tested HIV-positive and initiates the end of his relationship with Ming, a more expressive American-born Chinese man. The issues the lovers are forced to deal with as their relationship crumbles come into sharp focus as the play quickly cross cuts thoughts and scenes from their four years together with the silence-laden conclusion of their love affair.

First, there are the HIV issues: Oscar feels that his illness will cheat Ming of his own life and vitality. Ming disagrees and wants to stay to care for Oscar. Then there are the Asian issues. Oscar holds his feelings in just as his Chinese family did while Ming wants to make out in public, or at



Photo: Freddie Niem

Merv Maruyama, left, and Alan Quismorio.

least wants to hear the words "I love you" spoken aloud. The lovers cannot reconcile their differences and part with strained amicability.

They move on to other relationships: Ming moves to California with Robert, a white waiter, while Oscar more reluctantly takes up with Daniel, a flamboyant queer Harvard business student. As Ming and Oscar begin their new relationships, the former lovers still find themselves speaking the words of the language they created for each other amidst the relationship that will probably be

the most important either will have in his lifetime.

The most powerful element in *A Language of Their Own* is the aching familiarity that instantly draws in anyone who has ever suffered the loss of an important relationship. Yew's language is natural and filled with the sitcom and movie-screen rhythms that people tend to affect when dealing with the complicated language of relationships. Yew wisely injects as much humor into the heartbreak as possible, but the overwhelming impression the play leaves is one

Continued on page 38

Chay Yew

Continued from cover

the run was sold out and forced to extend while the play was still in rehearsal.

Sitting in Cafe Flore on a rainy December day, Yew explains the genesis of *Language*. He says that the play was, first of all, a response to his mother's wish that he would follow the dark, bloody *Porcelain* with something brighter, like a love story. "My take on love is through the eyes of my friends and through my slight experiences with it," Yew says. "My brushes with love have been, for the most part, negative. People do such strange, evil, nice, weird things in a relationship — especially a caring one. That's why language is so important. It has to convey all those things and more."

The play itself was actually begun in a cafe, not unlike the one Yew sits in for this interview. "I was eavesdropping on this couple — I love doing that when I'm bored — when the man said to the woman, 'I don't think we should see each other anymore.' I was so embarrassed for the girl. I tried to imagine what it would have been like to be in that position. I knew then I had the first line of my play."

A Language of Their Own is the story of two lovers, Oscar, who was born in China, and Ming, an American-born Chinese. Oscar, who has AIDS, wants to break up, Ming does not, but the couple eventually parts, and the lovers move on to other relationships. Ming almost immediately begins a relationship with Robert, a hunky blonde California waiter, and Oscar slowly begins a relationship with Daniel, a Filipino business student at Harvard. "*Language* was written," the playwright says, "because I was interested in why people hurt each other mentally and verbally. For all its words, *Language* is about what is unsaid. Abuse and love are an interesting combination."

Don't preach to the converted

Yew says he expected to die "a flaming death" with *Language* in New York. "They love to knock you down because you're young," he explains. "They did knock me, but not too much. It was tremendously successful, sold-out runs, standing ovations, you name it. But what was ultimately the most heartening was the reaction of the straight people, the non-Asian people, all of whom reacted strongly to the play."

"That's what gay theater — or any minority theater — should do, because these theaters appeal mostly to their own communities. But how long can you preach to the converted before they get bored? Minority theater should be given to the Newt Gingriches of the world because they are the ones who affect change. Gay theater has to be for the people. Gay people can claim it, but the public must come. Otherwise, you might as well stay home and perform for your friends."

The genesis of Yew's playwriting career began in his native Singapore when a friend needed an AIDS play for his theater. The play Yew wrote, *As If He Hears*, embarrasses the writer now ("It's playwriting 101," he says), but it did create quite a stir. The first play to deal openly with AIDS and Singapore's emerging gay subculture, Yew's work was banned by the government. Officials suggested to Yew that he change the main character, a gay man, into a woman. "I didn't want to revise the play," Yew says. "But my friends guilted me into it — guilt is not just a Jewish thing. So I revised the play, but the character is still a gay man. I just took out a lot of the gay-related stage directions and made them more subtle, so that the character swivels, he minces his way across the room, he flourishes. The government approved it, and on stage the character was more flamboyantly gay than he was originally." The play was a hit and was later turned into

a successful television docudrama that is still used extensively in Singapore schools and colleges.

Yew says he wants to continually challenge himself and his notion of gay theater. "When are we going to have a gay play that is not all about rich white men on vacation having a wonderful time?" he queries. "Where are the problems? And I'm not just talking about AIDS. Where are the day-to-day issues? What about money issues, our inability to connect with each other? Let's explore gay people of color. Let's explore gay people who are old — these are people we should focus on rather than going to see young gay men take their clothes off. I suppose there's a place for that, but we have an overabundance of it right now. Where is the play about gay alcoholics? Where's the play about hopelessness in gay youth? What about people who cannot work with AIDS patients anymore because of their frustration over the fact that people still insist on having unsafe sex? If theater cannot address the issues and ask the questions, they might as well be back doing vaudeville, which died a slow death. They had no issues."

Life, Yew posits, is like sex: it could be great, could be awful, could be dangerous. You just never know. "But theater," Yew insists, "is safe sex. You can go all the way, but you know you're protected. You leave and you feel you've been penetrated in some way. You go home to your nice house, but at least you have been brushed by something important. I hope never to stop having questions and will never stop wanting to know more. Theater is about questions. My theater doesn't answer questions. Do audiences want the answers so they can go home feeling safe? Maybe, but I want them to go home and think." ▼

Chay Yew's *A Language of Their Own* continues at the Asian American Theater through Feb. 4. Call 751-3074 for info.

West Side Story Star Almost Became a Veterinarian From Nerddom to Stardom

by Chad Jones

Though he's playing the ill-fated street tough Bernardo in the touring production of *West Side Story*, currently at the Orpheum Theatre, Vincent Zamora's own tale is more of a *West Coast* story. The singer/dancer/actor is something of a local boy — he grew up in Sacramento — who did not discover the wonderful world of show biz until late in high school when, like so many other sensitive souls, he found his salvation in choir and drama club.



Vincent Zamora

"I was such a nerd in high school," Zamora admits backstage at the Orpheum between a matinee and evening performance last week. "I was really into my studies and didn't have any outside interests until choir and drama. I was the overweight boy that all the jocks pushed around in the hallway and called fat. I'd walk clear out of my way to avoid them. But all that had stopped by senior year."

At 17, Zamora was plucked from his high school drama club to appear in a community production of *Scrooge* starring Cathy Rigby. That show's choreographer tapped several of the boys in the chorus to come train at his dance studio. Zamora, who had never had any dance training, was one of them. From there Zamora went on to become a member of Sacramento's Capital City Ballet Company and discovered his life's passion: dancing.

Persistence paid off

Zamora says his family was disappointed when he chose to pursue a career in dance performance and musical theater. "I was going to go to U.C. Davis to become a horse veterinarian," Zamora says. "But as soon as I started performing, I decided that there was no way I was going to school for another 10 years to be a horse doctor."

Almost entirely unschooled and with only his on-the-job train-

ing, Zamora moved to Los Angeles and became a waiter who sometimes got roles in videos or shows. "I finally put my foot down with myself," the dancer says. "I decided that I was going to focus on my real career and begin auditioning seriously. I've been getting work ever since, and that was about four years ago."

Now 30, the strikingly handsome Zamora (his father is Spanish and his mother is Native American and French), is relishing his role as Bernardo, the Puerto Rican leader of the Sharks whose little sister Maria falls in love with Tony, a member of the rival white gang, the Jets. "When people hear I'm playing Bernardo," Zamora says, "they always say, 'Oh, you play the bad guy.' But I don't think of him that way at all. Bernardo came here looking for what everyone came to America looking for: adventure, fortune and a better life. He's confronted with conflict from the white guys and he has to stand up for himself. He's like an animal in a corner

fighting back. He comes from a better place than most people think."

Sweet-natured, Zamora admits he finds it difficult to get himself all riled up and properly motivated to rumble with the Jets eight times a week. "There's so much of Bernardo that's not at all like me. He has so much rage and hatred. It's hard to come on stage and hate my co-stars, all of whom I like so much."

Most people know the plot of *West Side Story*, so it won't be divulging too much to reveal that Bernardo is killed during a rumble. Dying night after night is an experience Zamora says he finds fascinating. "I've never had to die on stage before," he says. "It's weird sometimes to have to think, 'Oh, I'm dying now.' There have been times when I'm totally consumed with the thought of my own death. The acting takes you to a strange place without even trying to get there. It's intense. Sometimes I think to myself, 'I have a whole year of doing this.

Will I survive?'"

The cast and crew of *West Side Story* have been on the road since September and will head to Japan for most of February and March. The show is slated to end in Toronto in July, but Zamora, like most of those involved with the show, hopes they will end up on Broadway. "We weren't hired with the promise of Broadway, but there's been talk," Zamora offers.

"*West Side Story* will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 1997, and it seems to be the thing to do these days to bring the great shows back for big anniversaries. We'll see."

Thus far, Zamora says his greatest moment on stage came last year in Long Beach while he was playing Paul, the gay character in *A Chorus Line*. During Paul's big monologue about discovering his homosexuality and working in a drag club, Zamora says he found much with which to identify. "There was so much I could relate to in my own life growing up and my relationship with my father. It was amazing to

go out there every night and open up these emotions that were so accessible. I'd stand there in that spotlight and talk openly about being gay, and at the end, I'd be in tears, just bawling. Then the actor playing the director would come over and comfort me. I was emotionally raw and did not care that people were there. I just sobbed, my nose ran, and I did not look pretty at all."

From the look of things, the local boy has made good. The "overweight nerd" has evolved into a boy, boy, crazy boy. He got cool, boy. ▼

Vincent Zamora and members of the *West Side Story* cast will present a cabaret show at Club Fugazi on Monday Jan. 15. Proceeds benefit Under One Roof and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. For info, call 421-4222. *West Side Story* continues at the Orpheum through Jan. 21. Call 776-1999 for information.

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INTERVIEW

Leverich

Continued from cover

in the form of the dramatist's old and trusted friend, Maria Britneva, Lady St. Just, whom the playwright had named as co-trustee for his infirm sister and principal beneficiary of his estate, Rose Williams.

"Although Tennessee had given me, in two letters, complete access to all the materials previously unavailable to biographers, he neglected to give me the right to quote from those materials, particularly from the journal that he had kept during his early life." Anointing herself as Williams' literary executor, St. Just threatened legal action against any potential publisher of *Tom*. That threat blocked publication of the book for six years and was not removed until early in 1994, when St. Just died in London.

Compelling tale

Just how the 75-year-old Leverich came to write the biography of America's premier dramatist, a man who was openly gay long before it was acceptable, is a compelling tale. "Tennessee never told me why he picked me... but I think it was because we had the theatre in common and because we were both gay. He also knew I would tell the truth, that I would be fair, that I would write with his sins remembered. He didn't want, and I was not about to, carve, a marble bust or write a hagiographic exercise. At the same time, he knew that I would not trash him or exploit his alcoholism, his drug dependency, his homosexuality."

The two men met in San Francisco in 1976, when Leverich produced one of Williams' later works, *The Two Character Play* (also known as *Outcry*), and got



Photo: Herm Aro

Tennessee Williams, left, and Lyle Leverich in the late '70s.

him good reviews. Earlier, Leverich had impressed the playwright by writing a rebuttal to Robert Brustein's "mean-spirited and inaccurate review of *Tennessee Williams' Letters to Donald Windham* in *The New York Times*. Tennessee wrote to me saying that no one had ever written a more eloquent or understanding defense of him."

The two became friends and colleagues, and when Leverich suggested that a book showing the professional side of Williams was desperately needed, the playwright agreed, adding, "Well, you write it, baby!"

"You see," said Leverich, "I felt that Tennessee's own *Memoirs* had done him a great deal of harm, had given homophobic critics more ammunition to denigrate his stature in the theatre, and I told him so. So, the book I proposed, which I had imagined as taking a *Rashomon* approach and reflecting multiple viewpoints of him:

actors, directors, stagehands, costume and set designers, etc., while they were all involved with him during production of his plays, would balance the equation. Williams' agent, Bill Barnes, agreed to represent the book, and so I began writing some introductory chapters, which were biographical in nature."

Leverich sent the chapters to Barnes, who passed them on to Williams. The playwright had invited Leverich to attend the Kennedy Center Awards honoring him for his remarkable contribution to the theatre. Leverich was in the lobby after the ceremony when Williams spotted him, called him over, and introduced him to his brother and sister-in-law as his "authorized biographer." Leverich admits to being dumbstruck, but assumed that Williams was not being serious.

This was in 1979, and Leverich soon learned that Williams was in

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FILM

'Brief Encounter' Screening in Memory of Finch



Bursting with repressed emotion and perfect English restraint, David Lean's melodramatic 1945 film *Brief Encounter* has long been a gay favorite. Penned and produced by Noel Coward, the film contains some of the most memorable dialogue ever written: "My dear, I've been shopping till I'm dropping." The drab life of housewife Laura Jesson (Celia Johnson) is disrupted by a chance meeting with doctor Alec Harvey (Trevor Howard) on a train station platform. They rendezvous again and fall in love. In the weeks that follow, Laura struggles to maintain her marital fidelity and resists the flames of passion. "Other things matter too," she pronounces sadly. "Self-respect matters, and decency — I can't go on any longer."

The Castro Theatre will present a special matinee screening of *Brief Encounter* on Sunday, January 14 at 11 a.m. in memory of Mark Finch, former director of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and a big fan of *Brief Encounter*. January 14 marks the one year anniversary of Finch's death. Admission is \$3.50. For more information, call 621-6120. ▼

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Leverich

Continued from page 36

deed very serious and began opening important doors for him. "He asked friends and associates to help me - like Andreas Brown of New York's famed Gotham Book Mart. Believe me, I was painfully aware of the challenge Tennessee had given me. I wondered if I could do it. Often in the writing of the book I'd look up at his picture over my desk and ask him, 'Why me?' Often I felt like quitting. But then I was writing the story about a writer who wouldn't give up against far greater odds. A friend called him 'Tenacity' Williams, you know."

From 1979 until Williams' accidental death from asphyxiation early in 1983, the two men met frequently in New Orleans, where Leverich had moved and where he was a production consultant for the black musical *One Mo' Time*, and in New York. They would go to dinner, to movies, and for long walks. "I realized that Tennessee was telling me the story of the real 'Menagerie,' and it gave me tremendous insight into how he transmuted his life into his art."

Leverich took Williams' two letters of authorization, the second one written exactly one month before his death, as mandates, which he now feels he has partially fulfilled. "That's the reason I wrote *Tom* - to keep my promise to Tennessee, who, in our last conversation, asked me if I would finish the biography. I assured him I would and am half way there. Of course, no one could have foreseen that it would take so long to get this far. But the second book won't take nearly as much time, and I hope to have it completed within two to three years. It will pick up where *Tom* ends, after the sensational opening of *Menagerie* in New York."

Unparalleled success

From 1945 until the early '60s, Williams enjoyed almost unparalleled success in the theatre and in films. But he was often criticized for his allegedly homosexual way of looking at people, as though his being gay automatically limited the universality of his vision. Williams had frequently been mauled by critics who said that his homosexuality colored his view of male-female relationships and that many of the sexual situations he dramatized were not reflective of heterosexual life. Leverich becomes visibly annoyed by censure he regards as thinly disguised attacks on homosexuality in general and Williams in particular.

"Well, maybe to some prudes and old-time puritans those assertions are true, but it's a ridiculous criticism, like the one that his female characters are really transvestites. You don't hear that from women. In fact, these are claims that are fast dying off of their own absurdity."

Leverich naturally deals with Williams' homosexuality - and his view of it - and does so candidly, as the playwright himself did. "As for his viewpoint toward it, well, he didn't believe in heterosexuality and homosexuality as opposites. He saw those labels as pseudoscientific polarities. He recognized an essential ambiguity in the sexual nature of men and women - a duality of gender."

Gore Vidal once said that Williams was the first American playwright to portray a male as a sex symbol - one that women reacted to lustfully. Leverich agrees, adding, "Yes, and a lot of men did, too." Vidal was referring to Marlon Brando in the original production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In the play, attracted by his sexual prowess, Stella stays with Stanley despite his brutish behavior. This was shocking to audiences in 1947.

Leverich concurs, adding, "The play was ahead of its time in that it

portrayed Stella, a 'well-bred' woman, frankly enjoying an open sex life with her virile husband. ... But the play also illustrates women's financial dependence on men, rape and its consequences for the woman, and society's willingness to blame the victim of a rape - issues now openly discussed and recognized, but considered revolutionary back then."

The *Glass Menagerie*, which had opened in New York in 1945, also had a revolutionary impact on the American stage. Leverich explained that "the play showed the effect on Tennessee of the free form of film and of his having recently been employed at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, resulting in what he called 'plastic theatre.' But, more than that, his writing lifted the play itself into a distinctive realm: an amalgam of poetry with prose that made him uniquely a poet-playwright."

Leverich points out that *Menagerie's* still being played all around the world. He attributes its universal appeal to "a theme common to us all: family. I think the three great American plays are O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and Tennessee's *The Glass Menagerie*. They're all concerned with the tragedy of failing to communicate within the family and of what agonies family members visit upon one another in the name of love."

One of the funniest parts of *Tom* deals with Williams' brief tenure at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, where Leverich puts to rest the myth that Tennessee wrote a screenplay for Lana Turner. "What he really did was to turn in some dialogue for a film called

Marriage Is a Private Affair, which he said Miss Turner found difficult to speak. He was soon taken off the film, suspended but on salary, and finally let go. He was careful with the money he made and used it to write *The Glass Menagerie*. But the time he spent at MGM wasn't wasted. Film as

rupted and he joined the Navy. He served in the South Pacific and, because of malaria attacks, was medically discharged. He "fell into" producing in San Francisco after initially working in various writing jobs in Hollywood, in films, trying to become an accredited screenwriter.

His credits as a producer are impressive: he served as artistic director of a festival in the 5000-seat amphitheater on Mt. Tamalpais, presenting artists of the caliber of Agnes Moorehead and Duke Ellington; he and a partner reopened the 3000-seat Orpheum Theatre with revivals of *Hair* and *The Man of La Mancha*; he was also a partner in the 500-seat Presentation Theatre, and then took over the Equity-waiver 99-seat Showcase Theatre. But he has little nostalgia for that long-ago life.

"Filling seats - a producer's life - is not the easiest of occupations. At my age, the life Tennessee created for me, as his biographer, is full-to-overflowing enough."

After completing the second volume on Williams, Leverich plans to "revise a novel, which is based on a screenplay I've written. Also, I've been thinking of a biographical novel, but I can tell you for sure, the subject will have to be dead a hundred years or I won't do it!"

Meanwhile, the plaudits the author has received from *The New York Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *Time* and *Entertainment Weekly*, among many others, have stimulated sales and given him genuine satisfaction.

Impressive credits

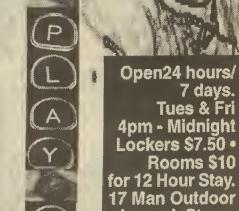
Leverich's own life began in New York with his ambition to be a playwright. He had a play in production starring Diana Barrymore when Pearl Harbor inter-



an art form intrigued him. He told me... that he would have preferred film to the stage except that only in the theatre could he enjoy not just the freedom but the protection and standing denied the screenwriter."

Leverich's own life began in New York with his ambition to be a playwright. He had a play in production starring Diana Barrymore when Pearl Harbor inter-

faction. "The initial printing of 35,000 copies seems to be selling out quickly, and the book has been out just a little more than two months, which is great. The publisher originally thought *Tom* would be a 'backlist' work, although that perception has changed. But we shouldn't be surprised: Tennessee Williams was frequently big box office. I'm happy that the public is eager to learn the truth about this important literary figure. But I'm just the medium through which he chose to tell his story." ▼



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Berkeley BART

Fate or coincidence? Who knows, but I love to talk to you. You're the gorgeous man with dark hair, baseball hat, goatee. Two encounters in one night has me curious. ☺ 8001.

14 Dec. Mkt & Kearny 1pm
You: Gorgeous, grey hair sunglasses heading west on Mkt. Me: Br hair, goatee heading east on Mkt w/ Mkt's bag. Care to meet for coffee or it? ☺ 8002.

Mike Detours Sat. 12/2
Had brief encounter. I am Mike also, would like to make it more than that. Please call. ☺ 8003.

"Wet When Wet"

Jesus, you make me nuts in that retro speed. When I saw you in the Koret showers and you took off your suit before swimming, I engorged. Let's stop staring and "get it on." (That's me being retro, too!) ☺ 8004.

Asian Muscle Sister

Market street, usually late afternoons. You: approx. 5'5", late 30's, smooth, beautiful body & bubble butt. Me: GWM, 5'9", 170#, balding brown, hairy blue eyes, goatee. We connected once before, years ago, and it was great! Forgot your name, socially shy but otherwise very aggressive. Would love to climb up and show you intense passion. ☺ 8005.

Sunday Dec 17, 12:15 MUNI
you had on black sweater and a beautiful smile. Me: blue/gray sweatshirt. Got off at Powell, regret not talking to you. Can I have a second chance? ☺ 8034.

Santa Rosa

Friedman Bros, Friday 12/15. You tall cowboy w/ beard. Me: Older of couple. We stared. Let's meet. ☺ 8035.

Ken Chicago MNL '95

I got your card in June but you didn't say how to reach you. I will be in SF in early Jan, and would love to get together. Dee from Madison. ☺ 8036.

Sean/Shawn

Diamond St., Sunday, 12/17, 2:00am. Enjoyed meeting you & the conversation in my car. Find you very attractive. Didn't exchange numbers - my mistake? Can we meet again - dinner or whatever suits you? ☺ 8045.

12/18 - Walgreens Sutter Stockton Garage

You: 25-30, brown hair in navy blue coat - bought bottle of water. Me: Brown hair is tweed coat with red scarf. Saw you then at Sutter Stockton cashier in line. Wish I had said "hi." ☺ 8101.

Met Cute BMW8F

11/18 Etc.
Found a response in the system on 12/21, but blew the retrieval and didn't hear it. Will you try again? ☺ 8102.

Midnite Sun, 12/18, 8pm

You: Jeans, orange plaid shirt, green jacket, brown hair very cute. Me: Jean, leather jacket. I shy to say hi, followed you to cafe, knew you saw me. Think you might be shy too. Lets not be. Call ☺ 8103.

Berkeley Bart

Fate on coincidence? Who knows. But I would like to talk. You're the gorgeous man with baseball cap, dark hair, goatee. Twice in one night has me curious. ☺ 8105.

Van Ness Ave.

Bus Stop At Market
You tall, handsome, eyes like the night sky. Me: Bind, blue, w/ a bag of cookies for a party. Tue 19, 1995. We caught the bus 2. I live in Dolores Heights. Hey babe the movie? ☺ 8107.

Badlands 12/30/95

You sat next to me in pool room before closing. We smile, said hello, but you left without saying goodbye! You: Thin, br hair, great eyes & retro style shirt. Me: Shrt blk hair, striped shirt. Another chance please? ☺ 8201.

Azteca 12/28 8:15PM

You were standing outside holding a dog as your friend entered and left. We always say "hi" and you always flash that smile. Can I buy you a burrito? Can we marry? ☺ 8202.

Christmas, No "L"

Castro Station. Both of us waiting for train. You: Waiting for L. Me: K. You wished me merry x-mas; I wish I could give you more. ☺ 8203.

Firefly Restaurant, Sunday, 12/10/95

You were waiting for the bathroom. I was sitting close to the window with a friend. Then, you were back to your table with a girl. Were you looking at me? I'm Asian in grey sweater, with glasses. You're WM, medium-long wavy hair, carrying a helmet. I would like to meet so I can officially introduce myself. Please call. ☺ 8204.

Diamond Hts Safeway

Xmas eve, 3:30pm. Me in Santa hat. You balding on top with bushy grey beard saw each other and you are on my mind. Please call, I won't be happy until then. ☺ 8205.

New Year's Day Baker Beach Sunset

Our sailors matched. We passed on the trail up there - danced in the parking lot. I hesitated - and your friends drove off. We should have talked. ☺ 8206.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP M-M

Wanted: Asian Dr Latin Men

Very good looking GWM, 38, and HIV+, seeks other good looking (be for real) Asian or Latin men, who are HIV+, for friendship and more. I have short dark hair with mustache, blue eyes, and a smooth body. Good looking men between 28-40 only. ☺ 8110.

Best Foot Forward

GWM hoping to meet life partner. Self-awareness, compassion, and good communication essential. Terrific looks nice but not necessary. Me: 5'9", 40, 165#, attractive good shape. Foot play a must. ☺ 8037.

Miscegenation

Japanese born, young 30's, 5'7", 135#, handsome, long hair, beard, UC, sensitive, intelligent strong character, seeks similar act, bear type 25-45, no hard drugs. ☺ 8042.

Sacramento Dads Daddy

Tall, trim 200#, masculine, bottom, Italian/handsome, young, 40's. WLM rugged! handsome top for play or relationship. I'm prof, HIV+, horny, bright, desirable, big heart/soul, dependable. ☺ 8044.

European And Asian Men

Can be very disarming with their wry smile and dulcet vernacular. Let me turn the table and this Yankee might enchant you. Yankee is tall, hairy, 43, expressive, romantic and affectionate. ☺ 8045.

Need A New Boyfriend?

WM, 52 (looks 30's), 5'11", 155#, clean shaven, NS, ND, HIV, looking for AM 25-35, short, thin, tall, looking for someone who likes him. Likes 80's music, theater, dining, travel, scuba, photography, movies, dancing, cats. Affectionate, loyal, marriage minded. Outstanding opportunity for the right person. ☺ 8046.

Seeking A Top

Gay Latino Male, 25yo, 5'10", bottom 150#, HIV+, healthy seeks a male who's a top HIV+, bwn 25 and 40, and who also lives in San Francisco. ☺ 8047.

Are You Lone Too?

GWM, 41, 5'5", 130#, seeking GWM to share quiet times, good companionship with. I enjoy good movies and good music & great food. Give me a call. It could be a new beginning for both of us. ☺ 8108.

Fellatio 201+

World class artist looks beyond the dick to the load, the bigger the better. If you shoot a real mouthful, I want this elixir of life. Why keep me waiting? ☺ 8109.

Attractive Latino 24

I'm 5'7", 168#, dark skinned, masculine, clean cut, student, would like to meet Latinos, whites, 21-35, for either just friendship or possible LTR. Prefer someone who is outgoing, extroverted humorous. ☺ 8118.

Blond & Blue Boy Next-Door

You're an attractive, affluent, generous man who'd like a young intelligent, exceptionally good-looking college boy to fill your nights with passion and pleasure. ☺ 8119.

I'm A Special Gift

I'm just the right person for a special gift. I'm HIV+, 40s, GWM, open minded, loving, caring. Looking for same GWM/GLM who will be there for each other. ☺ 8138.

Playboy User Wants White Pushovers

I'm 24, experienced in the practice of using and abusing willing white men. You will buy me what I want and let me disrespect you and spark your ass til you ache. Must be reliable and obedient all right looking. ☺ 8147.

Great Butt

Wanna get in it! GWM, muscular, very masculine, horny, unconventional bottom, 50yo, seeks hot, built, straight acting, intelligent, younger GWM, 30-40yo top for electrifying fuck sessions and fun nights on the town. NS, ND, HIV+. Not into gay scene. ☺ 8207.

Yeah, I'm HIV+, But

I'm stronger, healthier, and livelier than any drinking, doping, clubbing, disco bunny! You're the same, only bottom. ☺ 8226.

Top Wants Obedient Bottom

GWM, 49, 5'10", 170#, HIV+, bl/bl, top, new to SF & not into some weird GWM. I'm 6'2", 180#, bottom to spend quiet eves, dining, lite my pipe after din, give me a good fuck, cuddle and obey. ND, no SGM, age not important, US HIV-. ☺ 8217.

Playful GWM Seeks Prime Quality

I'm hot in a Tuxedo or bare-assed Chaps! You're man enough for the Powerhouse or the Opera house! This attractive, muscled, witty, well educated, intensely spirited, African-American professional seeks a GWM-toned, versatile, handsome, confident, mature, prime-quality Hunk... for sex, laughs, friendship... maybe more!! ☺ 8233.

Playful At A Puppy

Very cute, Spanish/Italian, 37, 5'7", 138#, brn/brn mustache. Nice guy w/ nice butt & braces on my teeth. Sincere, spiritual and very sexual. Like some bar scenes for music & fun. Love to laugh a lot and appreciate a good sense of humor. In good physical shape, very well proportioned, but not gym buffed. If you're 28-40 and this sounds like a good match call me. ☺ 3234.

HIV+, Athlete's Social For Singles

Wanna meet hot, healthy, HIV+, gym boys that are single? Wo do exist if you wish to meet, date, romance, or just play without fear, call to find out about this social. ☺ 8235.

SEEKING ADVENTURE M-M

14 Dec. Mkt & Kearny 1pm

You: Gorgeous, grey hair sunglasses heading west on Mkt. Me: Br hair, goatee heading east on Mkt w/ Mkt's bag. Care to meet for coffee or it? ☺ 8002.

Really Great Guy Seeks Same!

I'm rugged, independent and reliable, UB2. A lusty bottom. I'm 35, 6', 190#, HIV+, very attractive, with drk blonde hair, hazel eyes. I'm a fine artist/entrepreneur, a solid businessman. Love business, art, music, laughter and people. ☺ 8110.

Looking For Special Latin Male

Come into my life for friendship, dating, possible relationship! Ebay, single, GWM, 44 (look younger) black hair, hazel eyes, 5'10", 175#, attractive, sensitive, humorous, friendly. Enjoy music, dancing, movies, the outdoors. You: Be 30-40, attractive, masculine, 5'8"-6'0", facial hair, HIV-. ☺ 8111.

Dad Bottom Wants Top Son

We: GWM, HIV+, like dining, drinking, take, affection, movies, home times. Let's help each other survive as long as possible. Be romantic, love sex, responsible and caring. I am. ☺ 8112.

Seeking HIV+ Lover/Friend/Son

35, Ital, 6'1", 210#, HIV+, but healthy, handsome, masculine, versatile, clean shaven seeks a "son", GWM/GLM/GLB

unimportant. Attitude and desire really count. Lets make 1996 our year! I'm 30-40, attractive, masculine, 5'8"-6'0", facial hair, HIV-. ☺ 8113.

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Regular Guy

Me: GWM, 6'2", 210#, bl/bl, 3B, gym regular, versatile, slightly uninhibited, slightly voyeuristic, clean-cut & casual. Your: GWM, GBM or GLM, 35-45, height weight prop, honest, fun an affectionate. ☺ 8120.

Man to Man Relationship

Handsome, 38yo, WM, br;br, 6'1", 170#, muscular, masculine, active, outgoing, creative, responsible, horny, hairy, all around country boy. You: 30-40, attractive, masculine, 5'8"-6'0", facial hair, HIV-. ☺ 8111.

Visiting College Professor

GWM, 43, 5'7", 160, blue eyes, brown hair seeks a "son", GWM/GLM/GLB

unimportant. Attitude and desire really count. Lets make 1996 our year! I'm 30-40, attractive, masculine, 5'8"-6'0", facial hair, HIV-. ☺ 8111.

Dad Bottom

We: GWM, HIV+, like dining, drinking, take, affection, movies, home times. Let's help each other survive as long as possible. Be romantic, love sex, responsible and caring. I am. ☺ 8112.

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Seeking HIV+ Lover/Friend/Son

35, Ital, 6'1", 210#, HIV+, but healthy, brown hair seeks a "son", GWM/GLM/GLB

BAR TALK

Balding Or Thinning Hair?

I'm a 40yo HIV+, GWM, 6'2", 190+, clean shaven short brown hair, green eyes which seeks a LTR with a 40+, HIV+, professional GWM/GJM. I prefer balding or thinning hair men with moustache, extremely hairy chest and legs, big noses and large feet. No gym bunnies please. If this interest you, please call me. ☎ 8008.

Tall, Thin Goth Guy Wants Date.

Know who Siouxie is? 22, 6'1", green, black & cherry hair, pale & thin. Don't really fit Castro scene, obviously. Wants to meet another stable man who does not limit himself to a "look". I don't. Be around my age. Cheap date, movies, walks - too. Romantic for just one night. ☎ 8007.

Latin Lover Wanted

Searching for a gelling Latin top male who is healthy, HIV+, in-shape, fun, easy-going, sincere and honest. I am a gelling boyish blond, blue eyes, 5'9", 160+, healthy, HIV+, fair/skinny, evol bottom with a great smile. Call me, lets make e date. ☎ 8008.

Seeks LTR SF GWM Top

For this 100% GWM bottom. We like romance, sex, outings, dinner, drinks weekends. We are healthy, responsible, caring, affectionate. Really want a monogamous man. Let's talk. ☎ 8009.

GWM Needs GWM

Hot & handsome bik man, 30s, 5'11", masculine, good shape, facial hair, versatile. You should be the same for a great time. Leather types a plus. ☎ 8011.

Just Moved From The Midwest

GAM, early 30's, 5'11", 175+, intelligent, grounded, stable, NS, not a gym bunny, but work out. Enjoy clubbing, shopping, antiques, social events, dining out. Looking for a life partner, GWM, 30's-40's, 5' or taller, muscular, optional moustache. If you're interested leave a message. ☎ 8012.

Fucking Animal Needed Now!

Blond hair, blue eyed stud, 30, 5'10", 200+, clean-cut, muscle hunk wants masculine/good looking men to top me. Call anytime. ☎ 8013.

Hot Ass GAM

33, 5'8", 150+ sks top man for fun or more. ☎ 8021.

Utah Good Looking Seats Pen Pal!!!

GWM, 32, 5'10", 165+, br;br, works out, healthy, HIV+, travels to SF often. Enjoys outdoors, horse racing, movies, good conversation. Want to meet 24-34, slender, GWM, in shape. Let's meet. Looking for friends! ☎ 8014.

Daytime Head

Get sucked dry by tall, handsome dude. One time or regular basis. Morning or night. You. Under 30, in shape. Cut dicks only! ☎ 8015.

Chubby Chaser Wanted

35, GWM, seeks affectionate aggressive top. I enjoy Fr A/Pm Gr p and prefer hairy, beefy men 30+ yrs. ☎ 8016.

Young? Asian?

Do you like to be adored? This tall, fit, GWM is healthy, discreet, Fr/A, and ready to provided slow, complete oral service for all you alone or with your buddies. Call now! ☎ 8019.

You Bad Boy!

You fucked up! You broke your resolution! Get the spanking you deserve from an expert. Safe. Call now! ☎ 8022.

Tops Versatiles Wanted

Me: Attractive, masc, WM, 34, 5'8", 165+, br;br, mustache. I'm versatile & adventurous. Vanilla to FF. I love to fuck. Be into ass play. Smooth boy types a+. ☎ 8020.

Hot Latin Wants Hot Man

Me: 5'11", 178+, 7", cut, dk masc features, muscular body, HIV+. You like me or bigger. Ready to have me lick those big man balls & suck that fat dick, then flip over for you to fuck my Latin ass hole. ☎ 8023.

Attention Hot Bottoms...

I want a man who is a total bottom, may be uncut and have a hot hairy ass for long hard poundings. Body and facial hair, a plus. I can offer you 8 1/2 hot inches, thick and hard and waiting for you. HIV+ ok. ☎ 8024.

Bodybuilder Wanted

Big body builder wanted. The bigger the better. Top or bottom, cock size not important. I love big muscle & mutual butt pumping. Will make you squirm with my 8" hole. A wild ride you won't forget. ☎ 8025.

Lay Back Enjoy

Close your eyes and let me caress your entire body with my tongue, lips and fingers. Let me make your body spasm with excitement. Must be drug free and HIV+. Prefer smooth body with dark hair but call even if that's not you. Call today. ☎ 8026.

Sacramento

Bearded, in shape, GWM, loves to play guys with firm, hairy buns, Dickie over 8", face/body hair and muscles get me hard and horny. Day time is best. ☎ 8027.

Seeking Masculine Bottoms

WM, 5'6", great shape, dark features, looking for attractive, masc, in shape black, Latin or white bottoms. I am in a relationship but need more sex, HIV+ but healthy. Must be discreet! ☎ 8038.

Black Fuck Buddy Wanted

Ebay, GWM, 6', 155+, HIV-. Wants to service your big cock and ass in all ways. ☎ 8017.

Sonoma County

Desire, 35yo, GWM, bottom, ISO muscular, hairy, tall, topper for regular encounters at my place. Discretion guaranteed. ☎ 8039.

18-20 Bi Curious?

Are you 18-20 caucasian male? Horny for a M-M experience in private? Buffed, jocks, students, skaters a plus! 100% discreet. Porn videos & message. 1st time ok. Call Ricky in SF near NEAR. ☎ 8040.

You Like Uncut Dick...

This pleasant, trim, laid-back, 48yo, HIV+, horny, and uncut, GWM, bottom for you. I'd like to hear from you. ☎ 8238.

Let's Do It

French and Greek talented dark skinned, bubble butt, bik, bottom with small tits seeks masculine good looking horny Asian, black or Latin top. ☎ 8128.

I'm Over 70 and Submissive

You're under 50 and dominant. Any race, color or sexual orientation if you're masculine, friendly, in good shape. No reciprocation, no hassle, just pleasure the way you want it, for as long as you want it. (Berkely area) ☎ 8140.

Cock Sucker

Hungry for dick. If you're masculine, stocky and can give verbal abuse and instruction I'll be on my knees. I'm very masculine, good looking, WM. One time or regular service. ☎ 8141.

Aggressive Daddy Top

ISO boy bottoms 18-30yo who likes to service & play hard. You're erratic, horny, Me 5'10", 178+, hairy chest. Come to me and make you yell for more. ☎ 8142.

Thin Muscle Fuck Guys

My most intense and wanted sex fantasy involves thin, sinewy, muscle dick/fuck/sex it play. I went to explore sexual limits with thin hard body guys, tops and bottoms welcomed. You must enjoy fucking. Defined biceps, veiny arms, and/or defined abs major turn ons. ☎ 8143.

Bondage Partner

ISO ideal bottom who is 25-30, short, athletic, smooth and loves bondage, s/m. Beginners ok. Top is GWM, 32, 5'8", 150+, built, handsome, safe, sane, HIV-. ☎ 8240.

Furry Daddy

GWM, 49, husky, effeminate, sex-crazed, great 'stache, sks WM any eye w/ 'stache (no goatees), full head of hair, into sweat sex, outdoors, old movies, good food, etc. Non smokers only. ☎ 8241.

Jockstrap Wrest

Muscular, handsome men seek others turned on by erotic wrestling. Open to all fantasies and skill levels. No heavy rough housing, just good, clean, sweat fun. Go ahead and call, you won't be disappointed. ☎ 8242.

Cort Stevens Look-A-Like Wanted

By 37yo, GWM. If you're a young stud 18-25, like Cort, let's get together for some hot times. Relationship not required. Let's meet and have fun. I love movies, rock concerts, sports and love to travel. Maybe looking for companion for a summer cruise with Cort types. ☎ 8243.

Naked Fantasies

I'm interested in hearing about and acting out your fantasies. I'm a trim masculine WM 40 and prefer masculine guys 20-42 with lean builds. ☎ 8247.

SF Dominant GWM Top

Eagerly sought by this 100% GWM bottom. Teach me to be even more submissive and get me into some B&D and maybe S&M. Want to learn to be a slave. LTR possible? Let's at least talk about it! ☎ 8252.

Simply The Best

Ebay, BM, 38yo, 5'6", 145+, seeks muscle butt men who enjoy getting plunge. Race unimportant. Age 25-45. Short men a plus. ☎ 8253.

Muscular, Masculine, Ebay

GWM, br/bl, trim, HIV-. seeks muscular men of all colors, bi, straight ok, 40-55yo. Sincere for regular, sensuous, sessions. LTR possible with right man. HIV+ only! Peacock ☎ 8254.

Dad's A Butch Bottom

Handsome, healthy man with a hot hairy butt. Dad's, 48, 5'11", solid body, huge, thick, sexy, nipples. Seeking masc, healthy, top man for long slow sessions. Days & eves. Late O.K. ☎ 8256.

Let's Get Wet

I get turned on by water-wet clothes, very turned on. Lots of foreplay in the shower or hot tub, or anywhere with water and clothes. I'm who knows. I'm GWM, 38, 5'2", 150+, very handsome, gym trained, HIV+. I'm looking for GWM, GAM, GLM, in 20's or 30's, well built, good looking, HIV+, who likes water-wet clothes, or would just like to try it for fun. ☎ 8266.

Foot Footgear Slave

Young looking 48yo, HIV-. Hairy sincere feet lover seeks men with hot feet. I want to crawl, lick, kiss & worship your feet & be your hairy footstool. Ebony masters preferred. ☎ 8050.

FF/Vers

ISO experienced topman or versatiles for long, sweaty sessions to elbow. My ultimate goal is to ride over and elbow and also be able to get the double fisted HIV+; very handsome 45-. ☎ 8051.

Nice Guy Loves Barefoot

I have enjoyed lifelong excitement looking at and fantasizing about men's barefeet. I'm very aroused sensually and sexually by kissing, licking, smelling, and caressing barefoot in reciprocal action/J.O. Gelling Ebay, GWM, 5'8", 140+, tall, bearded, HIV+, NA, ND. ☎ 8129.

Asians Serviced

WM, late 40's, provides oral service for Asian cock, balls, tits, erm pits especially want to worship Asian with big cock. Muscular a plus. ☎ 8130.

Slave Driver Needs Reliable White Slaves

I'm a case, demanding, snobby, black nice slave driver. I like masculine or pushover hairy male slaves. My slave will do what I want to do, and buy me things I want. I like to paddle his ass. Sincere, young or good looking only. ☎ 8148.

Very Anal GWM Bottom

Seeks creative, dominant, HIV-, top partner to explore mutual desires and fantasies. I'm slender, smooth, in-shape, young 50's, HIV+, and especially relate to safe GR, WS, CBT, and much more. ☎ 8257.

Wanted: House Slave

Masc, dominant, seeking, hard working detail oriented, compulsive cleaning submissive. Age looks unimportant. Looks to serve on a regular basis. ☎ 8258.

San Jose Spankings!

Drop your jockstraps! Handsome older brother (39, 5'9", 210, dark-haired, clean-shaven) wants to give cute bds. (boys 18-30) the ass reddening they deserve. Also be prepared to spread your cheeks to get a greasy glazed finger up your hole. ☎ 8259.

Shaving Buddies

Sought by straight-earing GWM, 38, 5'8", muscular, 178+, Facial, ass & crotch shaving at hot Sat am parties. ☎ 8260.

Tickling & Licking

Really turn me on! GWM, 29, 5'9", 210+, gelling seeks gay/bi WM, 24-40, who is gelling & very oral/sensual for long licking, tickling & teasing sessions at my place on Mon/Tues days. ☎ 8261.

Locker Room Bondage

Dominant coach, 46, 6', 200+, seeks safe uniforms with in shape men. Novices welcome. Limits respected. ☎ 8262.

Sex Slave Wanted

GWM, 43, 180+, great shape, extremely handsome requires slave under 40, HIV-. Must be passionate, oral, smart, ready to obey orders and willing to please. Be very fit, attractive and ready. Call me now. ☎ 8263.

Scat Bottom Wanted

Visiting, x-football jock, with fat, beefy ass, needs hot, toilet mouth, bottom, this jock knows what he needs. ☎ 8264.

I'll Do Yours If You'll Do Mine

You in the shower, or hot tub, or on the beach getting wet with your clothes on. Me... whatever you like! I'm very turned on by water-wet clothes and shoes. It would be great if you were, too. But if you're not, here's a possibility that could complement mine... let's just go together! GWM, 38, 6'2", 180+, wasp, butt cut with big toilet seat stache. You: Facial hair, 30+, hot pig top heavy into rim jobs. Clean or not. Tops only. ☎ 8268.

Relax

WM cut with big clean feet give yourself a xmas present. Get naked, let a sizzling 50's tongue work your feet and make you feel good. ☎ 8030.

Rubber Man/Kink

Hot, very hung, 32yo, GWM, 6'3", 180+, toned, ISO GWM into rubber, leather, plastic, hood. U8 we are looking, sexy, sane, in shape. I love oral sex wearing erotic gear. You? Call. ☎ 8029.

Daytime Rimming SF

Handsome GWM enjoys daytime rimming. If you enjoy same contact Bob. Be clean and goodlooking, hairy ass a plus. ☎ 8248.

Sex Wrestle Partner

Looking for solid, thick-bodied, and smooth opponent. Any race, just playful. I'm 6'1", 185+, 35yo, caucasian, muscular, very sexy chest, dark hair, dark eyes, dark mind, HIV-. ☎ 8144.

Are You A Black or Brown PWA?

GWM, 44, stable & sober, 5'9", 180+, salt & pepper, versatile but prefer being bottom. I'm 1kg for light & not LTR w/ a daddy who can give TLC as well as discipline & sex. Not heavy S/M. No age requirement. Prefer trim to medium build. ☎ 8244.

F*ck Master

If you're a thin muscle guy w/ defined biceps, very arms, and/or washboard, abdominals. I'll blow your butt and take charge. All hole fantasias will be fulfilled. I'm 6'1", 185+, 35yo, caucasian, muscular, very sexy chest, dark hair, dark eyes, dark mind, HIV-. ☎ 8145.

A**e Boy

36 straw/blonde, hotel, 6', 180+, needs long lasting fuck stud man. Love 3 ways & groups. Wants a fresh hot butt that enjoys getting pounded. ☎ 8236.

Free Quality Massage

Strong, sensual, nurturing, full-body, swedish, massage for nicely built young men. I'm 6'2", 175+, 43, gelling, masculine, sincere. Experienced. Table. Because I enjoy it! ☎ 8126.

Kissaholic

Hairy, husky, blue-eyed, brown hair, GWM, 36, 5'8", 190+, bottom, seeks hot top into teaching me the art of kissing, butt play & long & deep fucking. New to being a bottom. ☎ 8239.

Wanted: Asian Top Man

Great looking HIV- bottom GWM, 33, seeks healthy, good looking, Asian stud, 20-35, into safe frequent, intense encounters. Serious. 80+ sincere replies only. ☎ 8126.

Ass Massage-Spanking

Give your buns the glowing feeling they deserve. Me: Attrac, GWM, 45, 6'5", 250+, football players build. You: Attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth to moderate body hair, with nice buns. I won't touch, squeeze, tickle, spank, probe your butt. ☎ 8251.

Smokers Only

Smoking cigarettes or cigars before sex turns me on. If you like the same thing and are reasonable good looking, white or hispanic, give me a call. I'm a GWM, 6', hairy chest, nice looking, good feeling. Ebay A+. ☎ 8250.

Handsome blond Scat Top Exhibitionist

Seeks well-built, good looking guy aged 18-32 willing to be a scat bottom in front of one or more people. If you're hungry, you'll definitely want me to feed you. ☎ 8031.

Hate the Status Quo?

GWM couple (both HIV+) seeks other singles or couples for 3-ways or 4-ways. Particularly interested in counter cultural sorts who are thin or height/weight proportional & HIV+. Our ages are 41 & 35, and both are height/weight proportional. ☎ 8265.

THIS WEEK

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 12

Askew

New-music trio Kathryn Lyle, Karen Hirst, Lauren Hewitt perform new material. \$5. 8:30pm. Jon Simo Center for Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. **554-0402**.

Dyke TV

Cable TV production team presents evening of video shorts. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. **824-3890**.

I, the Worst of All

Argentine filmmaker Maria Luisa Bemberg's story of 17th Cent. Mexican poet Sister Juana Ines de la Cruz. Call for showtimes. Lumiere Theatre, 1572 California. **885-3200**.

A Language of Their Own

Chay Yew's play about love, loss and language among four young gay men. Thurs.-Sun. thru 2/4, tonight at 8pm. \$16-18. Asian American Theater, 403 Arguello. **751-2600**.

A Line Around the Block

Solo performer Marga Gomez returns in her off-Broadway bound spectacular. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/14. \$12-14. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7933**.

Medea, the Musical

John Fisher's hybrid of Euripides and Busby Berkeley, performed by SassyMouth. \$20. Fri. at 8pm. Sat. at 2:30pm thru 1/20. Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason. **436-0806**.

Mood Swings

A moody group show, incl. Felix Macnee, Mark Ulrickson, and Jim McVarish, thru 1/31. Buccheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. **863-2891**.

Marilyn Pittman

SF lesbian comic, solo. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7933**.

Remembering the Way:

"Art of the Native Northwest" invitational group show, reception tonight, thru 3/30. American Indian Contemporary Arts, 685 Market, Suite 250. **495-7600**.

3045

Installation by Charles Goldman: issues of home, self and agoraphobia. With "Betty Ramirez Was Here," paintings by Carolyn Castaño. Reception tonight, 6pm. Wed.-Sat. thru 2/2. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. **863-2141**.

Wannabe

"A Girl Gang Invasion" directed by Kathi Georges. Fri. & Sat. thru 1/18. \$12. 8pm. Marilyn Monroe Memorial Theatre, 96 Lafayette. **552-3034**.

Saturday 13

Carrie

Tony Vaguely and Sick and Twisted Players' version of the classic horror film. Thurs.-Sat. thru 2/3. \$12-15. 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. **861-8972**.



▲ Thursday

Alcina Horstman's photograph "Masked Women in their Kitchen," part of the photo documentary group show **Conspiracy of the Moment** at Photo Metro Gallery.

Dirty Pictures

Red Jordan Arobateau reads from her latest novel, with Dalila Jasmin bellydancing, event for women, free. 7:30pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. **(510) 559-9184**.

Fucking, Sucking and...

"The Ritual Letting of Blood," a pornographic spoken word, performance, image marathon, includes Carol Queen, Scarlet Harlot, Al Lujan, many more. \$5. 5-10pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. **824-3890**.

Gaining Momentum

Jam curated by Stephanie Maher featuring C.O.R.E., High Risk Group, others, benefits 1996 SF Festival of Improvisation. \$10-15. 8pm. 842 Divisadero. **821-2329**.

Gay Comedy Night

Maria Falzone, Lisa Geduldig, Amy Boyd. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7933**.

Geary Theater Homecoming

A.C.T. holds a free Open House of the newly renovated theater, 10am-4pm. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. **834-3349**.

The Lady Upstairs

Sara Forder's play opens, a love story about atomic fission. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/10, call for times. \$12-18. 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. **861-5079**.

Lavender Seniors

East Bay gays & lesbians over 55, potluck, 1pm. San Leandro Comm. Church, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro. **(510) 247-2406**.

Wieland

Thick Description presents the world premiere of Erik Ehn's thriller, directed by Tony Kelly. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm thru 2/1. \$12.50-16.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. **621-7797**.

Wild Design:

"Designs for the Wild," exhibit of fantastic yet practical designs for outdoor adventure, thru 1/30. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. **357-4000**.

PFLAG

Support group, 2pm. "Project Open Mind" commercials screened, 3pm, free. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. **921-8850**.

Sunday 14

Mark Merlinis

Reading from his novel *American Studies*, free.

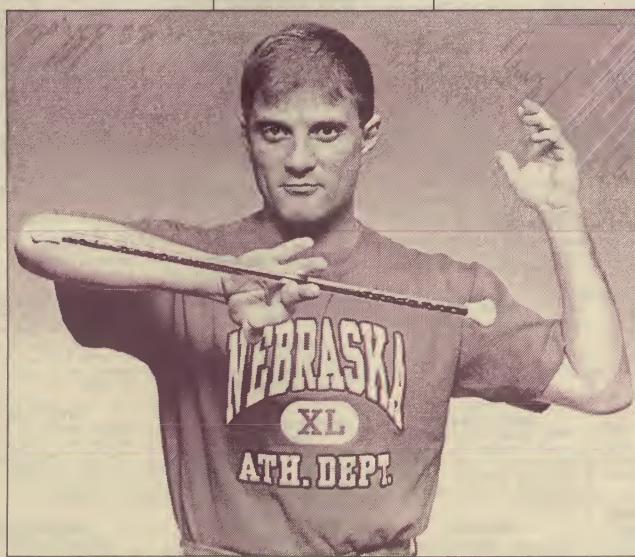


Photo: Tanya Reeves/Savage Photography

▲ Wednesday

Doug Holsclaw as trashy alter ego Pete Hilton in **Pete in Paradise** at Josie's Cabaret.

Monday 15

Gay Comedy Open Mike

M.C. Suzy Berger. Aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7933**.

Internat'l Character Toys

Exhibition of more than 100 toys depicting characters from cartoons, movies, TV, thru 4/15. International Terminal, SF Internat'l Airport. **761-0800**.

Naked

Five California artists explore the human figure, thru Jan. Naked Art Gallery, 355 Bryant, #110. **284-0567**.

One Hand, One Heart

Cabaret created and performed by *West Side Story* touring company, benefits Under One Roof and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. \$10-30. 8pm. Club Fugazi, 678 Green. **421-4222**.

Photos by Biron

Exhibition of photos from *Graf* magazine and *Mike-Tadzio of the 90s*. Thru 1/30. Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. **863-2009**.

Tuesday 16

Foggy City Dancers

Gay & lesbian square dancing, free introductory class, 7:30pm. Live Oak School, 117 Diamond. **905-4546**.

God Said, 'Hai'

New solo performance by Julie Sweeney, ironic examination of family, love and death. Thurs.-Sun. thru 2/4, call for times. Tonight at 8:30pm. \$15. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. **441-8822**.

Picasso the Sculptor

First exhibition of Picasso's sculptures on the West Coast. Thru 3/10. Palace of the Legion of Honor, 34th Ave. & Clement. **863-3330**.

April Sinclair

Reads from *Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice*, free. 7:30pm. Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph, Berkeley. **(510) 845-7552**.

Taking It...

"To Another Level," the Audre Lorde Creative Writing Workshop for Lesbians of Color, facilitated by Elizabeth F. Summers. Tues. thru 3/5. 6pm. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. **431-1180**.

Horehound Stillpoint, Trebor Healey

Queer writers featured in "Poetry Above Paradise," followed by open reading, free. 8pm. Paradise Lounge, 1501 Folsom. **621-1911**.

Sunday with Seth

Seth Montfort, solo piano, performing Scott Joplin & the Ragtime Influence. \$5. 3pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. **731-3355**.

V Dance

With Sister Roma at SF's newest gay and lesbian night club. \$3 cover, \$1 beer. Begins at noon. V/sf, 278 11th St. **621-1530**.

Benny Velarde Supercombo

Live salsa party. \$6. 4-8pm. Bahia Cabana, 1600 Market. **861-4202**.

Wednesday 17

Buried Fire

Cultural Odyssey presents *The Medea Project*: Theater For Incarcerated Women. Thurs. 1/21, call for times. \$15-20. 8pm. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620

K

Sutter. **474-8800.**

Changes of Heart

West Coast premiere of Marivaux's 18th-century romantic comedy, adapted and directed by Stephen Wadsworth. Tues.-Sun. thru 2/23, call for times. \$28-32.50. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

A Chorus of Colors

"Chinese Glass from Three American Collections," rare works of glass. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/25. \$6. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. **863-3330.**

exhibition. Wed.-Sat. thru 1/31. The Luggage Store, 1007 Market. **295-5971.**

Nothing Lost from the Original:

"William Wiley Looks at Art History," the California artist chooses works from the permanent collection. Wed.-Sun. thru 3/7. \$6. de Young Mem'l Museum, Golden Gate Park. **863-3330.**

Open House

Gold Rush, a gay country western/square dance performance team looking for new members. Call for info and location. **255-6458.**

Pete in Paradise

Writer/performer Doug Holsclaw as trashy alter ego

Herbst Theatre, McAllister at Van Ness. **392-4400.**

West Side Story

The musical theater classic returns, thru 1/21, call for times. \$25-60. Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market. **474-3800.**

Thursday 18

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. Doors 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. **241-0425.**

Conspiracy of the Moment

*21 Documentary

Groove Fest

Latin funksters Los Angelitos, many others, perform in this benefit for Project Open Hand, call for ticket price. 10pm, 1015 Folsom. **431-0700.**

The Hungry Tree

Nightletter Theater, interdisciplinary performance ensemble presents a sculptural and movement-based adaptation of Grimms' "The Juniper Tree." Thurs.-Sun. thru 1/27. \$12. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. **626-ARTS.**

Inner Vision

Photographic collaboration between A. Ray and Trinette Reed, thru Jan. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. **864-7654.**

This Week's Dinner Specials

Roast Duck a L' Orange with orange-brandy glaze, wild rice & apple-raisin dressing.....**9.75**

Veal Sweetbreads with sherry wine & mushroom sauce, served over fettucini.....**9.75**

Charcoal-grilled Pork Chops with Thai-spiced marinade, wild rice or mashed potatoes.....**8.95**

Penne Pasta with Chicken & Rock Shrimp, creamy tomato-basil pesto sauce.....**9.75**

Grilled New York Steak with bearnaise sauce, french fries and onion rings.....**10.95**

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Sara Feller

*

Directed by...
Mary Coleman

*

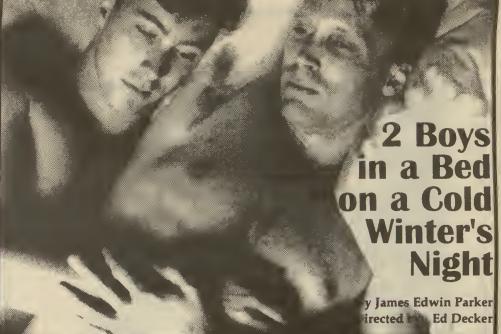
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Friday

Alan Quismorio, Merv Maruyama, Art Desuyo and Eric Newton in Chay Yew's *A Language of Their Own* at the Asian American Theater.

Photo: Freddie Niem

Friday

Alan Quismorio, Merv Maruyama, Art Desuyo and Eric Newton in Chay Yew's *A Language of Their Own* at the Asian American Theater.

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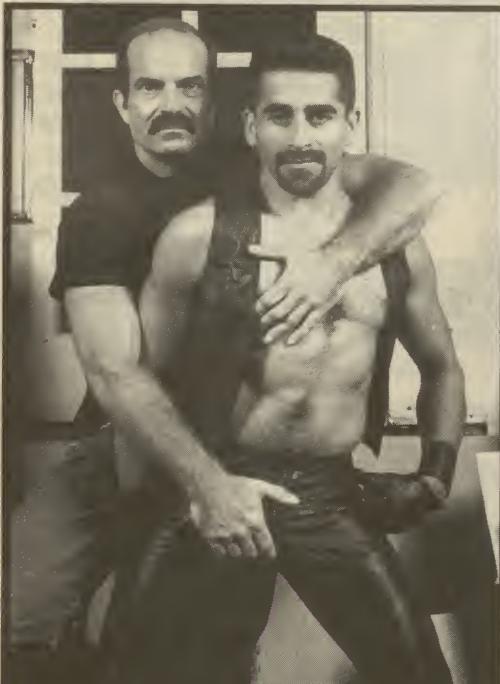
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MR. MARCUS

Centaur MC Kicks Off '96 With Leather Fun & Games

It's easy to admire a motorcycle club like the Centaur MC of Washington, D.C. This weekend (Jan. 12-15), the club celebrates its 26th anniversary and the selection of the 12th Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather (on Sunday, Jan. 14). From the first winner in 1985, Jeff Vertis, to last year's winner, Joe Morris, the Centaurs have annually sent a contestant to the IML Contest in Chicago, and more often than not the contestants have advanced to the semi-finals in Chicago.

The Centaurs have consistently demonstrated what a club can do when its members embody the qualities of brotherhood and camaraderie that epitomize the spirit of a club. It is doubtful that any other club matches this one for enthusiasm and dedication. Remember that as we prepare for the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest, the big event that kicks off the leather year of fun, games, competition, leather pride and leather accomplishment.

This coming weekend, the Centaurs will host another sold-out event. Last weekend a blizzard engulfed the entire East Coast, so if you're planning on going, be prepared for bad weather. It's doubtful that the weather in the nation's capital this year will be anything like last year's, which was unseasonably warm.

All three host hotels are sold out. The \$50 weekend packages are sold out (except for \$20 tickets at the door for the contest on Sunday). Leathermen and women from around the world will gather in Washington for this spectacular weekend, one infamous the world over for being just about the best weekend on the whole leather circuit.

The Centaur MC Leather Weekend is right up there with IML, IML, and Int'l. Mr. Drummer. Not hard to believe that a lot of leatherpeople make the Centaur

MC weekend their only visit to a leather/title weekend event.

The Centaurs managed to set and maintain the \$50 weekend fee, which admits you to a plethora of events that include food and drinks, discount tickets to several D.C. businesses, admission to all the weekend events, and the year's first opportunity to mix with VIP leatherpeople.

Dignitaries from Australia to

Zanzibar will be there and, of course, almost 100 people from San Francisco will witness the always-stirring opening ceremony, the parade of colors, which brings together more than 50 clubs from around the world.

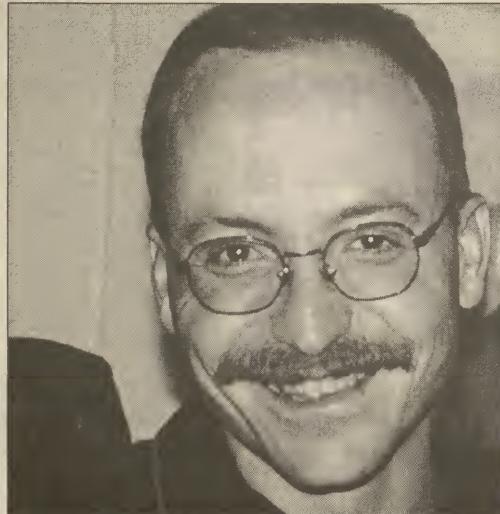
The DC-Eagle, Green Lantern, Diversite, Crew Club, Annie's Steak House, The Leather Rack, Trumpets, J.R.'s, the Circle, Mr. P's, the Fireplace and Badlands will swing open their doors for the influx of delegates to the event. Yeah, it's crowded everywhere!

At the Ramada Plaza, the host hotel, almost 30 vendors will have their wares on display and a shuttle bus service will be provided to all venues throughout the weekend. If you're not going, don't worry, I'll bring you the results, photos and dish next week.

And to Joe Morris, who ends his year with the title on Sunday, thanks for a great year. You maintained your high standards and traveled all over the country helping to raise funds. Stay well, always remain the way you were when we met, and know that you are much-respected and loved.

The 1997 Bare Chest Calendar search

The 1997 South of Market Bare Chest Calendar competition kicks off tonight, Jan. 11th, at the Eagle. Because I'll be in Washington for the Mid-Atlantic Leather thing, that very popular and fun guy Andy Anderson will do the emceeing. Andy has been on the calendar and has judged some of the contests, so he knows what to do and how to do it. He promised that the Bare Chest



Always a delight, Andy Anderson will emcee the Mr. January 1997 Bare Chest Contest at the Eagle, Thursday, January 11, beginning at 2200.

Photo: Mr. Marcus

Events in Leather

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Andy Anderson emcees the Mr. January 1997 Bare Chest Contest tonight at the SF-Eagle beginning at 2200. It should be a swell night, and the Bare Chest Chorus will be there in force. Win \$100 and eternal glory/exposure on the calendar. And yes, keep those nipples nibble!

Weekend, Jan. 12-15

Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather competition and Leather Weekend by Centaur MC in Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$20 for the contest only, which is at Tracks on Sunday at 1400.

Ms. Gulf Coast Leather contest in Houston (which isn't on the Gulf Coast). "Shadow" steps down or aside or gallops off into the sunset, but no details arrived at my deadline.

Friday, Jan. 12

Big sale (10% to 60%) at Stormy Leather begins today through Jan. 21. While there, check out paintings by John Abramson, hanging through Feb. 2.

Golden Gate Guards MC

beer bust, 2000-2300, at the SF-Eagle. It's only \$6 for an evening of fun and games.

Saturday, Jan. 13

SF GDI's 22nd anniversary on the Eagle patio, 2000-2300. Entry by wearing club overlay or invitation in hand.

Sunday, Jan. 14

Barbara Tucker in person at Pleasuredome tonight when the doors open at 2000; the party goes until 0600 the next day. Don't forget: Monday's a holiday for most people in appreciation for all your support in their fundraising, this one is free!

New dance club premieres at 715 Harrison, 1800-0100. Only \$10 and a New York DJ will laser disc the night away.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

First Leather Buddies party of 1996 at 933 Harrison. Be butch. No cologne. Wear leather/rubber and boots. Count on being sniffed. The bloodhounds have your manly scent. Doors open 2000-2300. Call 979-0242.

Thursday, Jan. 18

Constantines MC beer bust

at Daddy's, 2000-2300, for only \$6. No other details furnished.

Friday, Jan. 19

Free and anonymous HIV testing for everyone at 933 Harrison upstairs from 2200 until half past midnight. Take advantage of a great community service by Blow Buddies and the AIDS Health Project.

Saturday, Jan. 20

Dyke Daddy and Dyke Mommy (what about Dyke Baby!) contests at the SF-Eagle, with a \$7 beer bust. Lady Hillary steps aside, and Ms. San Jose Leather Miranda emcees. Should be fun; I hope you'll all be there!

Fetish & Tough Customers party by Mr. Alameda Co. Drummer Roger Luttrell at the Turf Club in Hayward, with a beer bust from 2000 to 2300. You could be in the next issue of *Tough Customers* mag! If you have any questions, call (510) 881-9877.

Sunday, Jan. 21

Pacific Bears LMC beer bust at Daddy's. No details furnished at my deadline. ▼

Chorus will be on hand. Win \$100 and painlessly help the AIDS Emergency Fund.

New dance venue premieres

It started out as just a Christmas party for friends, but in the end some 1,500 lbs of canned goods and other food was produced for the AIDS Food Bank. Now, Jito and Ed (the guys behind GM Productions), who also sponsor the "Real Bad" parties, are hard at work scheduling some new leather/levi oriented (others are definitely welcome) dance parties at 715 Harrison, the former location of Dreamland. The first party is slated for Sunday night, Jan. 14. Be there. The action starts at 1800 (\$10 admission) and goes 'til at least 0100 the next morning. Each party will feature some of the nation's top DJs, in addition to some local ones, and for the premiere party, Michael Fierman of NY will be featured. Next month's party is on Sunday, Feb. 18. Make your plans now!

Return of the Dish Mobile

There's no doubt that the 49er faithful are alive and well despite the team's loss in the divisional playoffs last Saturday to Green Bay. No surprise then that when some gay Packers fans ventured into the Castro after the game, a fist fight erupted outside of Daddy's Bar between a very inebriated gay 49er fan and two cheese heads who wanted to gloat over the victory. Fortunately, the tiff didn't last long and no one really got hurt. So our team didn't make the Bowl this year! Big deal. There were still some really thrilling moments during the season and, well, there's always next year!

As for the conference playoffs next weekend, the consensus around these parts is "Anybody but the Cowboys!" Time will tell. Are you reading this Mark Frazier?

It's probably reasonable (if not generous) to welcome the return of another gay paper in town, but that new editor isn't making anybody's popularity list by trying to hire away writers, photographers and other key personnel from the already-established — and successful — papers in town. ▼



Photo: Mr. Marcus

Emperor Brian Benamati and Empress Donna Sachet delighted SOMA with their frequent appearances and fundraising efforts in 1995. They crown their successors in early March, 1996 at the Fairmont Hotel.

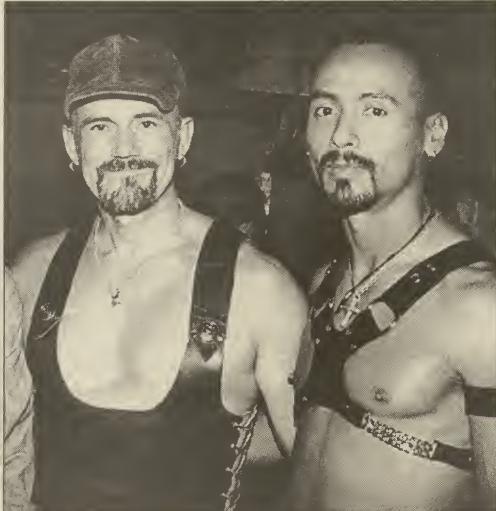


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Leather designers Dimitrius (left) and his partner Ricardo of Black Eagle Leathers in L.A. scored a coup when they were hired to design leather outfits for superstar Tony Curtis' comeback epic, *Adventures of Reptile Man*, which debuts at the Cannes Film Festival in May 1996. Dimitrius and Ricardo will accompany Mr. Curtis to the premiere.

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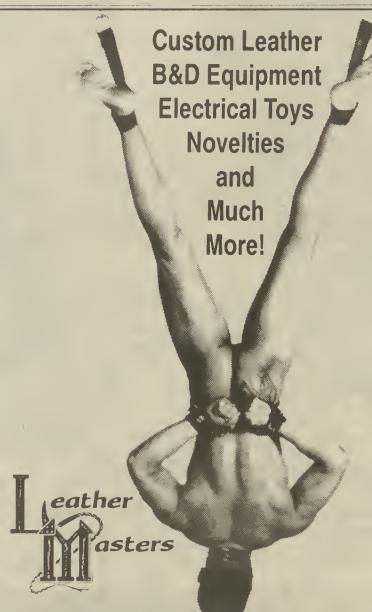
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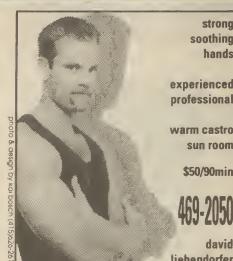
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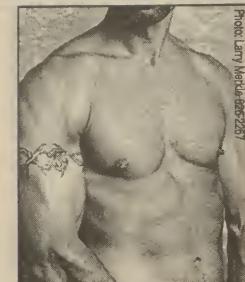
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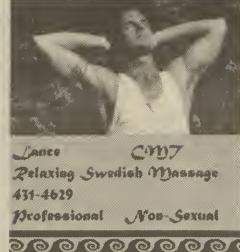
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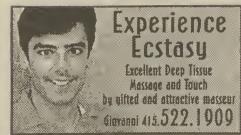
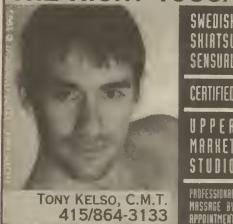
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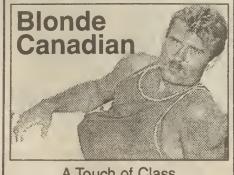
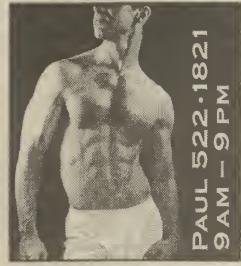
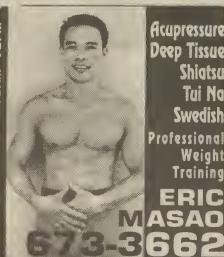
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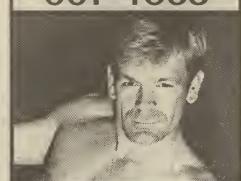
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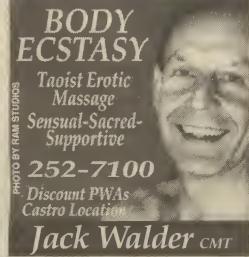
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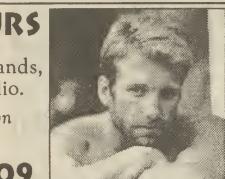
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Upscale Stud at Your Service
Tall, Dark, Hndsm. * 978-6593

Asian Top Anal Master
Well-Hung, Smooth
If Looking For A Hot Time
Call: 605-0281

E03

Don't Look Any Further
Very handsome Mediterranean
look, dark hair, green/hazel eyes
5'11", 172, Big, Thick Rod.
Gorgeous Butt, Intelligent,
Pleasant Personality
Versatile. Pager: 560-0564

E02

Hot Top FF Jack 313-1356

E02

Start the Year w/ the Best
18 YEAR OLD

Punk Kid, Dyed Hair, Slim,
Toned Body, Fun, Safe & Hot
Page: 764-7296. In/Out

E02

Hot Uncut Kinky Lthr Stud
30, Bl/Bi, 8 1/2, Joe 313-1356
Buddy Avail for 3-Ways, Etc.

E02

HOT LATIN STUD
Masc, Versatile. Vic • 978-7220

E02

NATIONWIDE PROFESSIONAL MALE MODELS LISTING SERVICE
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ON LEAVE YOUR OWN!
BULLETIN BOARDS BY REGION

1-900-740-TOOL

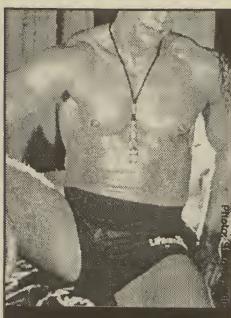
MODELS INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING ON LINE CALL 1-800-759-8255 PIN# 505-TOOL
ADULTS ONLY / \$3 PER MINUTE.

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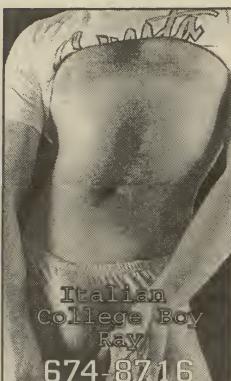
-long, & slow-my specialty, 6'2", 185, strong, gymanized master into all aspects & degrees of leatherplay. S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch. Lord 431-0959



22 year old
PUERTO RICAN MUSCLE
5'7" 235lbs. 19 arm
50 ch. 32 wst. Call Pete
406-0761



Blond German
Karl 709-0055



Italian
College Boy
Ray
674-8716

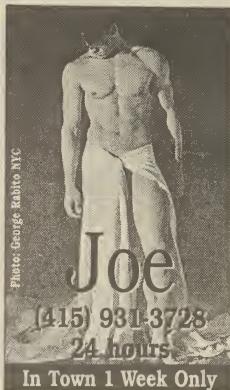


Tall
Dark
Handsome
Italian
807-9822

Harbour Studios 1510 865-3946 Studio 252-8694

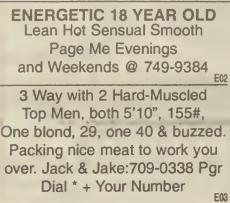
BUTCH LOOK
tall muscular
big hairy pecs
handsome hung 9
522-2306

FRAT MAN
Masculine, Horse-Hung Jock
Athletic Build • Friendly
Dominant • Verbal • Long Lasting
Craig 415-861-7399 \$80



HOT RUSSIAN

8 1/2" Uncut, Dominant Top
All Scenes * Pgr 560-9499



ENERGETIC 18 YEAR OLD
Lean Hot Sensual Smooth
Page Me Evenings
and Weekends @ 749-9384

3 Way with 2 Hard-Muscled
Top Men, both 5'10", 155#.
One blond, 29, one 40 & buzzed.
Packing nice meat to work you
over. Jack & Jake: 709-0338 Pgr
Dial * + Your Number



SERIOUS MUSCLE
Real B.B., Thick, Ripped!
Handsome, Hung 9", 337-4364

Blond Boy With Crew Cut
Versatile. Top. Hung 8X6"
5'10", 155#, Smooth & Lean
Jake * Page: 709-0338



MUSCLE DAD
6'3", 220 Lbs of Pure Muscle
TRUE HUNG 9X6 UNCUT
Most Masculine, Straight
Buffed Dad in SF. Out Only.
Page Rod: (415) 907-4907



LEATHERMAN
Bondage-SM-Whips-Kink!
Gdkg Tolman - Your Fantasy
My Talen'JACK*(415) 270-4496

Asians Wellcum! * 708-3325

Young, Irresistible
CUTE ASIAN
Hot & Ready. (415) 750-1472

Escort to your Hotel or Home

TIE ME UP

You down oral. Versatile. 24 Hrs.
Never hurried. Older men wel-cum.
Toys. In \$60, Out \$70.

DIC * 863-2922

More Than Just a Big Dick!

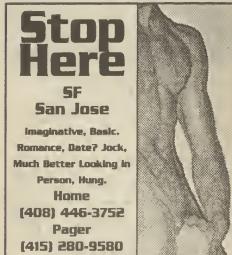
TALENTED TOP
36 yo, 6'2", 170#, Sexy, Gdkg
Masculine Sensual Friendly
John * (510) 595-0686

BLACKTOP

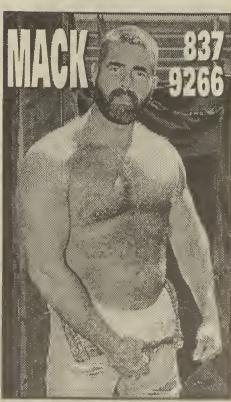
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All Scenes * 8"-Dominant
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100% SMOOTH
Hard Muscl * Shaved Head
NO BODY HAIR
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E03



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San Jose
Imaginative, Basic.
Romance, Date? Jock,
Much Better Looking in
Person, Hung.
Home
(408) 446-3752
Pager
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MACK
837
9266



A YOUNG BOY
Is what you want. I'm 20, 5'6",
smooth, slim, hung, & VERY cute.
Tell me what to do.
527-0083 \$150.

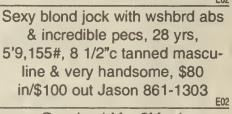
Blond Long Hair 22 Cute
6', Smooth Hung 522-1736



RIPE/TASTY
22 YEAR OLD
BROOKLYN
ITALIAN
BROWN HAIR
BLUE EYES
BUILT/HUNG
241-1577

TOP ATHLETE
SEXY STUD-HOT BODY
HUNG, 9x6, BL/BL, 6'1", 190
CALL ROB 675-4702

E02



Sexy blond jock with wshbrd abs
& incredible pecs, 28 yrs,

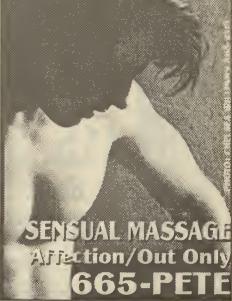
5'9, 155#, 8 1/2" c tanned muscular
& very handsome, \$80
in/\$100 out Jason 861-1303

E02



Booboy! Man2Man!
Lotsa Action
Boink! Bang! Bam!
In a Word: Nick
A Top Boy at 605-1449

E02



SENSUAL MASSAGE
Affection/Out Only
665-PETE



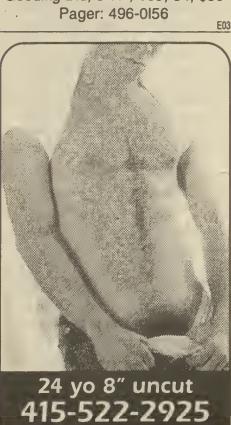
Smooth Blonde Boy



605-4174 pgr \$100

CHAD

E03



24 yo 8" uncut

415-522-2925



TONY
487
137
9

E02

7" Psycho Divn 30-1541

HOT-CUTE

BLOND-BLUE

8" THICK

HOT MOUTH • CLIPPED SHAVED

560-6636

E02

7" Psycho Divn 30-1541

Here's What You Want

SUPER HUNG

EXTRA HANDSOME

College Jock with defined

tight body & very versatile.

Matt 550-6833 In/Out

208-5496

E02

7" Psycho Divn 30-1541

CORY

Very friendly Very Masculine

Outcalls and Travel OK

208-5496

E02

7" Psycho Divn 30-1541

BOYS-2-MEN

EST. 1993



800-666-6933

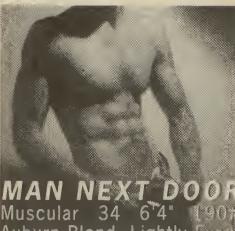
FAX PHOTOS AVAILABLE

OR VISIT OUR INTERNET DOMAIN @

<http://www.hooked.net/boys2men/>

E03

7" Psycho Divn 30-1541



MAN NEXT DOOR
Muscular 34 6'4" 190#
Auburn Blond, Lightly Furry
Hung \$100 SEAN 487-1949

Hired Man
6'4" 195# Blond/Blu Hairy
Pretty Hose & Lug Nuts
Luke * 24 Hrs*Pgr: 605-4013

Excruciating...
Short, muscular, 41 yr. old sadist,
dominant and expert with secure
bondage, and prolonged,
imaginative genital torture.
(415) 626-3034 Roger



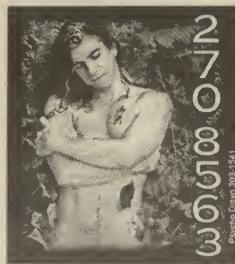
522-8750
In/Out



IN S.F. UNTIL JAN. 17 ONLY!

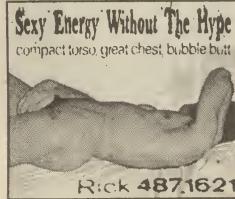
**5'11" • 190 lbs
24 Yrs. Old**
CODY LEE
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**Best Lay - Low Pay
"Top" Secret**
One of the Biggest and Best
Butt-Busting Tools of the Trade
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Spanker Warms Buns 928-3199
Massage N Play. Handsome
muscular 8 1/2 Italian When a
man needs more * 487-1959



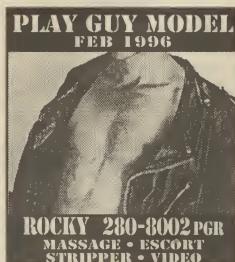
**270-6500
3**
HOT YOUNG AUSSIE 24 YO
Call Red 487-6815

**Sexy Blond
CALVIN KLEIN**
Model 29 yrs. 9" thick
round buns, rock solid
861-1303 Ryan



2 For One Marine Boys
Both buffed, smooth, gym bods,
great asses. Hot Stuff.
The Real Deal \$150.
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MASSAGE • ESCORT
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Distinguished Age 40
Handsome Hung 8" & Thick
\$60 • DAVE * 922-3924

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs

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\$80/\$100 * JIM 267-1817

24HR HANDSOME

Prince will take your breath

away! 22 y/o, affectionate lover

massages & satisfies fetishes &

fantasies. In/Out 487-7662

E02

Spank & Paddling * Kory

Safe Fantasies * 773-9130

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Kicks Back for Service 24 Hrs

10"X6" UNCUT

Big, Fat Tool. Pgr: 678-1005

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Athletic Body, Handsome

Face, Bulging Boxers

Masculine 25 y/o * 905-8838

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Hot, Handsome Stud

THE 9X7 CLUB

Experience The Total Package

Nice Body Great Personality.

Dominant Top. 24hrs.

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Area. Ted * (415) 459-3408

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UNCUT BIKERSTUD

Hung Big - Low Hangers.
Handsome, Aggressive
Topman!!!
Built, Friendly, Dominant!
Verbal, Open-Minded, 24 Hrs.
Craig \$80/in (415) 255-TOPP

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**HUNG XTRA THICK
TOM CHASE**
Serious Bodybuilder - 5'10"
170lbs
44 ch, 30 w, 16 o
Dark Brown Hair & Eyes
Clean Shaven,
Very Good Looking.
Solid Muscle, Smooth Body,
Washboard Abs 10.5" Cul
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ATHLETIC,
CLEAN,HEALTHY
MASCULINE
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YOUNG MAN AT
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SEXY LATIN STUD MUFFIN
Your Wish Is My Fantasy
5'7", 140 Lbs, Swims Bld, 8"
Thick
Pager: 837-7571

Fine Southern Stud • 605-0903
Big Dick - Hot Rear
Sexually Experienced

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6'3" 240# Very Built 24 yr-old
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BEAUTIFULLY BUFFED
Sensitive Gifted Touch
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E05



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6 ft 180 Br/Br 28 Yr
Lightly Hairy Chest

High Colonics • 241-0567

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Models 9" w/ Tattooed Dragon
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Tight built, laid-back, lean
smooth & Masculine. Best of All,
Hung ... Like A Stallion!
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Very Cute & Athletic
Hot Butt and Body
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Calvin Klein Model, Very Hung,
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BLONDE BUFFED NORDIC GOD
25 AWESOME TORSO 6' 180LBS

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BEAUTIFUL SMILE AND VERY SEXY!

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HANDSOME, MASC.
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9" THICK**
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Masc. 35 Y/O Top * 605-1383

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Pierced Cock, Huge Loads
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8x6 206-1867

Sexy Student w/ thick dick
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Handsome, Hunk, 32, 9x6"
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Fun, Friendly & Gorgeous 6'2",
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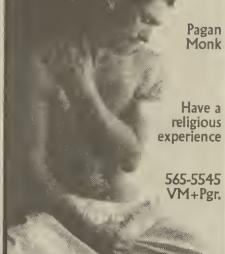
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All Levels Of Experience
Sensual Fingers to Fists.
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8**



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throat?*



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HARD!**

Very hot masculine 22, 6' tight
muscular body hung big and fat.
Mature men/hotel calls welcome

Page Kurt @ 201-7189

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25 Years Old
From Italy
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